Walsall & Willenhall

CONICLE

Thursday, March 22, 2018

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Failings on security, heating and teaching highlighted

NURSERY AS INADEQUATE

Report by Megan Archer

A NURSERY in Darlaston has been branded 'inadequate' after it was discovered children did not have access to drinking water, the rooms were too cold, and anybody could walk in off the street.

An Ofsted inspector also found the quality of teaching to be weak at Music Box nursery in Salisbury Street, and that communication with parents was not always effective.

Staff did not regularly observe and assess children's learning or plan challenging activities, or keep a note of the youngsters' attendance which made it difficult in the event of an

emergency.
Inspector Trish Turney visited the Music loss in February. Her report said: "Children do not receive the support they need to make progress in their learning, particularly in their communication and language development.

Prepare

"They do not develop confidence or learn to participate in activities for long periods of time. They have little motivation to play and learn. Children do not gain the key skills to help prepare them for the next stage of their learning or eventual move to school."

She added: "Staff do not always implement

She added: "Staff do not always implement effective measures to keep children safe. Unauthorised persons can enter the building and the nursery rooms without staff's knowledge. Staff do not promote children's good health and well-being effectively. The temperature in the nursery is too low and staff do not ensure children have regular access to drinking water."

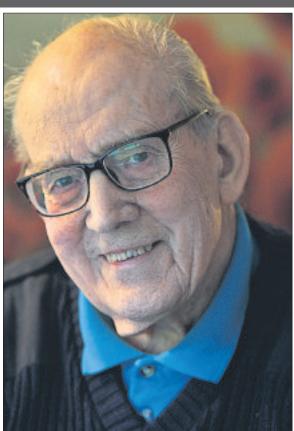
Ms Turney highlighted the one strength of the nursery as children being able to develop some physical skills by playing on wheeled toys or by rolling balls. Music Box looks after a total of 15 children aged two to three.

or by rolling balls. Music Box 100Ks after a Loui of 15 children aged two to three.

In her report she added that, for the nursery to reach suitable standards, a system must be put in place to assess children's learning and make their time there a 'challenging and enjoyable experience', while also involving parents and ensuring any needs are addressed quickly.

Music Box did not respond to requests for

COMRADES FOREVER, FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE



Graham Stevenson, 93, from Walsall, who was a machine gunner



Graham and Charley at one of their regimental get-togethers



The pair during a recent commemorative event

IT'S a remarkable story of enduring friendship in spite of the

divisions of war... One Second World War African campaign veteran, Graham Stevenson, aged 93, from Walsall, counts former German counterpart, Karl Friedrich 'Charley' Koenig, as a good friend.

Some 75 years ago, both men were fighting on opposite sides of the battle lines in the African desert.

The pair first came into contact in Tunisia in March 1943 without realising, Mr Koenig as part of the German 5th Panzer Division and Mr Stevenson in the Sherwood Rangers Yeo-

zer Division and Mr Stevenson in the pair are now the only surviving members of an old comrades' association which has transcended the opposing factions they represented, with the German veteran being made an honorary Sherwood Ranger.

• Full story – Page 2

EDUCATION

Bomb threat at college campus

THOUSANDS of students were evacuated from Walsall College after it received 'false and malicious' bomb threats. The college was one of hundreds of schools and colleges across the country to receive the threats.

It remained shut for the day after announcing on its social media pages at 11.44am on Monday that it was clearing all of its campuses due to the incident

Campuses on Littleton Street West, Green Lane, Broadway and Portland Street were affected, with scores of students turned away as they attempted to enter sites. West Midlands Police said there was noth-

ing to suggest there was any 'credible threat' to any of the schools or colleges targeted. The force has launched an investigation into

the threats.
Walsall College – which has around 15,000 students enrolled – was one of more than 400 UK schools and colleges to receive bomb threats. The schools were all sent emails which claimed devices had been planted and demanded cash. Police said a 'number of schools' in the

West Midlands had received the email, but did not confirm which institutions were tar aeted.

A statement released by the force said: "We are investigating emails sent to a num-ber of schools in the West Midlands making bomb threats – at this stage it is believed they are false and malicious." The hoaves come two years after a spate of fake threats were sent to schools across

the West Midlands

FUNDRAISING

Quiz night in aid of appeal for playhouse

FUNDRAISERS desperately trying to save The Grange Playhouse in Walsall are holding a quiz night on Friday. The Grange Players need to raises £60,000 to carry out important repairs to their base, the playhouse, in

Broadway North, or they may be forced out.

To help meet the bill, there will be a 'fun general knowledge quiz' and some light entertainment at the Saddlers Club next to Walsall FC in Bescot Crescent from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7 per person with teams of up to six allowed. For tickets email Louise at company.secretary@grangeplayers.co.uk or call/text Louise on 07805 068850 for further

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CHRONICLE

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More than 1,000 turn out for jobs fair



Council leader Sean Coughlan, with Parveen Sangha, and Aneet Hodson

jobs and skills event. The Walsall Works EXPO was held

at Walsall College venue, The Hub, last Thursday.

The event was attended by more than 80 employers and training pro-

People who turned up were offered jobs, training and apprenticeship op-

portunities during the day, which took place between 12.30pm and

5pm. Homeserve, Walsall Football Club and whg were just some of the organisations who were present on the

day.

The event was organised by Walsall Council's Employment and Skills team, in partnership with DWP and The View programme.

During the day, an apprenticeship took place in the morning, specif-ically for schools, helping support the next generation of school leavers make an informed decision about their chosen career field.

While a lunchtime session for em-

ployers provided advice on how to recruit and upskill their workforce whilst increasing social value for

Former enemies put the war aside for friendship

was 1943 and both men were soldiers of the Second World War - fighting on opposite sides of the

battlefield in the African desert. Seven decades on and 93-year-old Graham Stevenson, from Walsall, classes for-

nam Stevenson, from Walsall, classes for-mer enemy and German soldier Karl Frie-drich "Charley" Koenig as a good friend. Mr Stevenson – who went on to fight in Nor-mandy where he was caught in his arm by gun-fire – was a machine gunner for the Sherwood Ranger Yeomanry Tank Regiment. After the battle of El Alamein where he bailed out of a tank as a 17-year-old, he took part in the hard fighting all along the way from Alamein through Tunisia.

Alamein through Tunisia.

The pair first came into contact – without knowing – in Tunisia in March 1943, when the British and opposition tanks stalked one another. Mr Koenig, 94, was part of the German 5th Panzer Division and saw his part in the war come to an end in May that year, when he was taken prisoner by the Americans and transported to camps in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Belgium, and England before returning home in 1947.

In 1991, he sought out the Sherwood Rangers and found Ken Ewing, who was head of the

In 1991, he sought out the Sherwood Rangers and found Ken Ewing, who was head of the southern branch of the Sherwood Rangers Old Comrades' Association.

He was invited to join the group as an honorary member and now, Mr Stevenson and Mr

Koenig are the only members of the group left alive to have fought in Africa almost 75 years ago. Their friendship has transcended the bru-

"Karl wears a British beret and a cap badge featuring the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, my regiment," said Mr Stevenson. He was captured on the desert and whisked off to the United States to a prisoner of war camp. He ended up being moved to England when the war was still

on – he could speak very good English and was more or less an informal interpreter. "He was in with a couple who had a son who was virtually his age, who was away at sea. It was quite the thing, at weekends, to dress him

was quite timing, a weekening, to dress him up in their son's clothes and go down to the pub.

"Because he had a bit of an accent they said it was their nephew from Canada or something like that.

They properly met one another at the regiment's annual get-together in Nottingham



Graham Stevenson in Cairo aged 18 in 1943

about a decade ago – since then, they've spoken almost every year since. He said: "We accepted him, put the tanks away, we weren't fighting anymore."

Both Mr Stevenson and Mr Koenig regularly visit Normandy for the anniversary of the D-Day land-ings. Despite Mr Koenig not being involved in the battle, he is welcomed back each year – sporting his

battle, he is welcomed back each year – sporting his adopted British beret with pride.

Mr Stevenson, who was just 16 when he enlisted to join the Army – telling the recruitment officer he was 18 and just days away from turning 19, added: "We're just two blokes together that have got experiences in common but from the other side of the fence. When you stop fighting, you're just two people. You treat people equally.

fence. When you stop lighting, you're just two peo-ple. You treat people equally.

"If you don't forgive, you're just extending the wartime atmosphere. There was some awful Nazis but they were very much in the minority. Otherwise they were just the same as we were, they were doing



Karl Friedrich "Charley" Koenig in uniform

a job they didn't want to do and had been ordered

To mark the 75th anniversary of their fight in the desert, the World War II History Project is launching a crowdfunding campaign to bring the pair back together one more time this summer in England then in Normandy.

Heather Steele, from the United States, who has

helped them both get to Normandy for a number of years, wants to be able to record a film of the pair

A total of \$25.000 is needed to cover travel costs a videographer and his travel, admin costs and the production of a video to be shared with the public and to be developed into curricula for school chil-

dren of all ages and college students.

Details on the project can be found here: https:// www.indiegogo.com/projects/former-enemies-best-friends-friendship-peace/coming_soon#/

Audi buyer jailed after police find stun gun

A CAR hire manager got more than he bargained for when he bought an Audi A6. Daoud Musa did not realise there was a Taser disguised as a torch among tools sold with the vehicle – resulting in him being sentenced to 15 months in jail, although it could have been longer.

jail, although it could have been longer. But a judge ruled there were exceptional circumstances which allowed him to reduce the five year minimum jail term set for the offence.

The 28-year-old drove into trouble while tracing a hire car that had been dumped in the Black Country.

He missed a turning and was in collision with an HGV as he 'spun round' on the forecourt of a car wash in Moxley Road, Darlaston on May 27 2016, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

There was a confrontation that resulted in an emergency call to police

sulted in an emergency call to police in which it was claimed the defendant was armed with a knife. Officers rushed to the scene and found the Taser while searching the Audi for the non existent

searching the Audi for the non existent bladed article.

Musa maintained he thought it was a torch and had used it as such but Mr Tim Sapwell, prosecuting insisted: "You knew it was a stun gun."

The defendant argued: "A police officer searched me for a knife and found none. I genuinely thought I had done nothing wrong and told him to search my car as well. I would not have said that if I knew there was a stun gun in the vehicle." the vehicle.'

Musa from Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall pleaded guilty to possession of a disguised firearm in the middle of his trial on the basis that he did not know it was a stun gun. This was not accepted by the prosecution and Judge Dean Ker-shaw was asked to decide the matter.

Ironically the weapon had a fault and would not have worked, confirmed the

Staffordshire ramble beckons

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers' next walk on Saturday will be a shorter route of about four miles at Great Hay-wood in Staffordshire. The meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C. P. (Lichfield Road) at

9:30am. More information can be obtained on 0121 353 4102.

Then on Sunday they are off to Mil-

ford, Derbyshire for a nine mile circular

walk.
'Derwent Views' is an undulating walk with views of the River Derwent

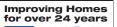
Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leader on 07880 782 850 For information on Walsall Walking

Festival on Sunday June 3rd see www walsallwalkingfestival.co.uk or contac Steve Pierce at szaneii53@gmail.com



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PCC reveals dates when police bases set to close

CLOSURE dates have been set for eight police stations in the Black Country that have been earmarked

Country that have been earmarked to shut.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson will decide on the proposal, which would save the force £5 million, at a meeting on Tuesdum.

on Tuesday.

Under the plan, Bilston's Prouds
Lane station would close this summer.
Sedgley will close the following year
while Oldbury, Wednesfield, Aldridge
and Tipton will close in 2020.

Smethwick will close in 2021 and Wednesbury in 2022.

All eight stations cost almost £1m

All eight stations cost almost \$1\text{m} a year to run, according to the PCC.
Wendy Morton, MP for
Aldridge-Brownhills, says she is unhappy with the planned closure of
Aldridge Police Station and has opposed the scheme.

In a report ahead of the meeting, it
was said there had been little or no

was said there had been little or no opposition from people in Dudley and Sandwell about the closures. But the concerns raised by Ms Morton are being addressed by the sector unit

being addressed by commander. Fears were also raised over response times and the future status of the buildings if the closure were ap-

ed.
Wolverhampton, MP Emma Reynolds said the consultation period was too short.

Green spaces in protection hope

THREE green spaces in Walsall could be protected forever under new plans.

Walsall Council's cabinet will con-Waisaii Council's capinet will con-sider submitting an application to Fields in Trust to create three new Fields in Trust, which would be at Palfrey Park, Fibbersley Local Na-ture Reserve and Willenhall Memorial Park. As part of the plans, the council hopes to create a living legacy to mark the World War I centenary through Willenhall Memorial Park which would be protected forever as centenary fields.

If successful, the new dedications will add to previous green spaces in trust around the borough such as the Queen Elizabeth II Fields which were created through a grassroots legacy from the momentous events in 2012.

20m mast plan

A 20-METRE high telecomms mast could be installed on a street in Walsall. Plans have been put forward by Hutchinson & EE to put up the mast in front of the Collingwood Centre in Hillingford Avenue, Pheasey.

Model pupils follow like Shaun the Sheep



Grace Finney, with one of the models

lowing in the footsteps of Wallace and Gromit and Shaun the Sheep creator Nick Park. Pelsall Village School was visited by clay model animators from Aardman Animations who were also behind the recent Early Man film.

As part of a prize linked to eating healthy school meals, the children in key stage two were taught how to create some of the characters from the prehistoric comedy, which starred the voices of Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hid-dleston, Maisie Williams and Timothy Spall. The school was visited by Jim

has worked at Bristol-based Aardman since 2000. He started on Chicken Run and has since played a part in most productions.

Following directions from the model expert, the youngsters has the chance to create Hognob – the sidekick and pet wild boar of caveman Dug– and the sabre-toothed rabbit, using resources supplied by the healthy food

manufacturer, Pasta King.

The year five and six children also went on to create short animations Early Man, the animation company's seventh film, follows a tribe of primitive Stone Age valley dwellers who have to defend their land from bronze-using invaders in a football

Lots of fun was had by all with children also learning about careers that support the creative skills of art, music and drama," said school busi-ness manager Sandra Rochelle.

The competition was held by Shires Catering Company, which saw Pelsall Village School crowned as the Midlands winner.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Property owner pleads not quilty

A PROPERTY owner accused of put-ting people at risk of death after not following fire safety rules has pleaded not guilty.

Sundeep Singh Sidhu was responsible for the building that used to be The Three Crowns pub in Sutton Road, Walsall, which closed down in 2007. The 35-year-old, of Little Aston Park Road in Sutton Coldfield, has been charged with four counts of fail-ure to comply with a fire safety order, pleading not guilty to all counts.

He will next appear at Wolverhamp-ton Crown Court on April 12 for trial and is on unconditional bail until

Judo star to help voung hopefuls

AN athlete inspired scores of students as she revealed her journey to Olympic glory. Haruka Tachimoto is the current 70kg Judo Olympic champion after clinching gold at Rio 2016.

The athlete stopped by at the University of Wolverhampton to speak to students about her career on Thursday. Tachimoto will spend a month at the British Judo Centre of Excellence, at the university's Walsall Campus.

Performance director Nigel Dono-hue said: "It was incredibly exciting to have the calibre of Haruka to come over and work with our athletes

'Smart city' hope with broadband

MULTI-MILLION pound plans to roll out broadband will help transform Wolverhampton into a 'smart city'.

Wolverhampton council won £4.9 million of government cash pot to pro-vide gigabit broadband to more homes and businesses. The city is just one of 13 areas nationwide which has been awarded funding to provide faster and more reliable broadband.

Broadband will be provided to 196

public sector premises including li-braries, schools and colleges. More than 900 businesses and 4,000 homes will be able to tap into the network.

Man found dead in town centre hotel

A MAN has been found dead in a hotel in Walsall.

liscovered in The Premier Inn on The Waterfront in the town centre by hotel staff on the morning of Monday March 12. He is believed to have checked in the day before.

A post mortem examination has been carried out and an inquest ex-pected to open in due course. His death is not believed to be suspicious.

Heartbroken families' tribute to crash pals

THE HEARTBROKEN parents of two teenagers killed in a crash in the Black Country have paid tribute to their sons.

Alexander Lees, aged 19, died along with Tarik Campbell, 18, following the tragedy

on Broadway West last Tuesday night.
Pictures of the pair, who were both on the motorbike, which was in collision with a Rover car, have now been released by the families through West Midlands Police.

A 58-year-old man who was arrested on sus-picion of drink driving and causing death by dangerous driving has been released under in-vestigation. Alexander was at Sandwell College and planned to go to Coventry University in Sep-tember to study aeronautical engineering, it has been revealed.

His parents said: "Alex loved life. He could never sit still and was always on the go, he lived every moment to the fullest. "Standing at 6ft 4ins tall, he was a big charac-

ter and always had amazing ideas.

Talented

"His main love was for motorbikes, but he also loved computers and his guitar. Words cannot begin to express how much we will miss him."

They added: "He was so talented and loved time with his friends and family. Who knows what the future would have brought for our only son? He was taken, along with his friend, far too soon We love you and we miss you son!"

son? He was taken, along with his friend, far too soon. We love you and we miss you, son."
Tarik's family said: "Tarik was a well-loved son, grandson, brother, cousin and nephew. As well as that, he was a good friend and we couldn't be more proud of him. He was a hardworking and well-mannered young man and a huge role model for all of his siblings.

"He was a genuine kind-hearted person and his personality shined all the time. Tarik will be missed so much by everyone who knew him. We appreciate all of the support and tributes for both Tarik and Alex."

The fatal crash happened between the junc-

The fatal crash happened between the junctions of Lord Street and Alexandra Road at 11.30pm. Both teenagers were pronounced dead at the scene. Pc Karl Davies from West Midlands Police appealed for any witnesses to come for-



Friends Tarik Campbell, left, and Alex Lees, right, who were killed after being knocked off a motorbike

ward saying: "We are appealing for information from anyone who saw what happened. Broadway is one of the main routes into Walsall and I'm sure that other road users will have witnessed the collision or the bike riding along the road. We would also appeal for anyone who may have dashcam footage showing what

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "Sadly, despite their efforts, it was not possible to save either man and they were both confirmed dead on scene. Ambulance staff would like to thank the police officers at the incident who assisted with CPR."

People living by the crash site spoke of their shock at the deaths of the young men following the incident.

One neighbour, who asked not to be named, said: "My husband heard a loud bang at about 11pm and went outside. The boys were lying in the road. He called an ambulance. Everyone was outside. All the neighbours. "One of our neighbours was doing CPR. It was terrible."

Bouquets of flowers and touching messages have been laid by tearful friends and family on the pave-ment. One tribute reads: "Alex, taken too soon, God bless" and another said "Tarik you will be sorely missed – taken too soon from us."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 or email FL_COLLISION_INVEST@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Silent - Page 12

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COUNTY NEWS

Action call as pet thefts 'rise 24pc'

PET theft is on the rise with more than 60 dogs stolen in England and Wales every week. But, officials with DogLost, which helps reunite owners and pets, claim these numbers are

only the tip of the iceberg.

They have said that as the law stands there is no deterrent to reduce

stands there is no deterrent to reduce pet theft which is up by nearly 24 per cent over the past three years. Pet Theft Awareness, a of the Stolen & Missing Pets Alliance, is backing an e-petition created by Dr Daniel Allen, a research fellow in Human Geography and tutor at Keele University People are urged to sign at peti-sity People are urged to sign at petisity. People are urged to sign at petition.par liament.uk/petitions/212174.

Suzi's Tomfoolery over cat's gender

BLACK Country TV favourite Suzi Perry rescued a stray kitten and named it Gloria – only to find her new furry friend was a male. Wolves fan Suzi tweeted the clanger to her 365,000 followers, prompting scores

365,000 followers, prompting scores of replies.

The presenter posted: "Rescued a stray wild kitten, fed her and called her Gloria. Managed to catch her to take her to the vets to be sterilised. Apparently Gloria is a boy - no coming back from the name Gloria is there?!"

Tassed about her insuliit to tell the

Teased about her inability to tell the difference between a male and female cat, Suzi replied: "Wild cat, long hair – untouchable!"

Black Books star Dylan's Brum date

DYLAN Moran will perform is returning to Birmingham on a new tour.

The Black Books comedy icon will come to the region on his Dr Cosmos tour, heading to 41 UK venues.

Dylan is set to offer his unique take on love, politics, misery and the everyday absurdities of life at the New Alexandre Milesten Birmingham and Milesten Birmingham. exandra Theatre, Birmingham, on September 22. The comedian, actor and writer became the youngest ever winner of the Perrier Award at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1996.

Camera club hopes to snap up new members

A PHOTOGRAPHIC group is looking for new members. North Birmingham Photographic Society meets every Wednesday at Great Barr War Memo-rial Hall in Chapel Lane, from 7.45pm.

Professional photographer Dave Tucker will be giving a talk on March 21, followed by a lecture on Iceland by fellow photographer Peter Clark.

For further information about the club call 07729 033981.

Leader hits back at ethnic division claims Gogglebox

lems with segregation – the council's leader has insisted after the town was one of five areas targeted by the Government to improve integration of ethnic minorities.

A new integration strategy will be rolled out to promote British values in schools and provide extra English language courses in an effort to reach communities where there is deemed gramme is part of a £50 million investment by the Government to try and

improve community relations.
English courses will predominantly target women from minority communities to encourage them to integrate and find jobs.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid

said there was a 'segregation problem' in some of England's schools and ac-

said too many parts of the country were divided.

However, Sean Coughlan, leader of the Labour-run Walsall Council said: "We were invited to take part in the pilot by the Government in recogni-

tion of our excellent work on community cohesion.

"The issue is the way the Government is trying to put this across. I

centres and I see some fantastic co hesion going on and people getting on with their lives. Women are des-perately trying to learn English. The problem is the Government cut back

"I really see this as a positive. I would be foolish to believe there aren't tensions anywhere but that happens

star Sandra to be part of **fun evening**

GOGGLEBOX Star Sandra Martin will be making a personal appearance at a Walsall football club on Saturday

After a recent appearance on ITVs day time show Loose Women, committee cembers from Darlaston

Town (1874) approached Gog-glebox celebrity Sandra Martin with the idea of her coming to host a fun-filled adult evening to raise funds for Darlaston Town (1874) FC.

Sandra Martin

Sandra is known for her on screen partnership with friend Sandie and daughter Chanchez in the Channel 4 Award Winning Programme Goggle-

Sandra is passionate about support ing local community and charitable events and jumped at the chance to host the evening at Bentley Leisure Pavilion.

The evening will see a trivia-based quiz hosted by Sandra with the winners receiving a cash prize.

The adults-only event is ticket only and tickets are selling quickly so if you would like to meet Sandra, so if you would like to meet Sandra, or think you have what it takes to be crowned "Darlo's brainbox" then tickets are £5 per person are available from the Club in person or call 01922 616165 or 07976 752698.

Darlaston Town (1874) FC volun-teer Nicola Waite said, "She is a very funny lady and has plenty of stories to tell about her appearances on Goggle-box and other TV programmes."

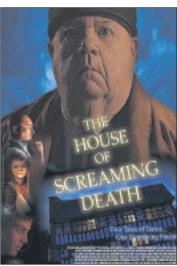
Campaigners in nurseries fight

CAMPAIGNERS are fighting a council decision to close all of Birming ham's community nurseries, which could leave hundreds of poor families with no day care for their children.

GMB, the union for childcare workers, lobbied Birmingham City Council over its plan to close the facilities. Members want councillors to first examine the union's plan on how to keep the nurseries open.

Following intense pressure from GMB, including a 1,500 strong petition, the council agreed to put extra options up for consultation – includ-ing the union's idea to look at sustainability and locality provision as well as the options for closures. GMB organ-iser Gill Ogilvie said: "GMB have been devastated since the council unveiled their outrageous plan last year.

It's a scream for Dave, as movie makes its mark





Actor Ian McNeice on the poster for the film

Dave Hastings, Karen Jensen-Clare, nominated for best sound, and judge Darryl Griffin. Inset, the manor house

A HORROR movie filmed in and around the Black Country and Staffordshire has the audience four short stories, each won a top award.

The House of Screaming Death, starring Ian McNeice who has appeared in the likes of Doctor Who and Game of Thrones, won Best Feature Film at the 2018 Mid-

lands Movies Awards. Shot on a budget of just £4,000, it involved around 100 people, including cast and crew, all of whom provided their services free of charge and was filmed at West Bromwich's Manor House Museum as well as sites in Wal-

By Heather Large

set in different time periods and each exploring a different part of the supernatural world from ghosts to vam-

Director Dave Hastings, who lives in Darlaston and is a film lecturer at Walsall College said he was delighted the film had been recognised.

Amazing

"I think more than anything, my-self and co-producer Kaushy Patel are just overwhelmed, especially because it has recognised such an amazing cast and crew who worked on the film.

The plot is based on McNeice's character, The Architect, who tells

The plot is based on McNeice's exist without each and every one of them who helped bring the final pic-

ture to life, whether they were behind the camera or in front of it. It was a complete team effort, and this award reinforces just how brilliant everyone

"As well as this, it shows that there is great talent in the Midlands film-making scene, and that you don't need to go to London, or even Holly-wood to find it. It's right here on your own doorstep.We've been entering it into film festivals across the globe with our fingers crossed.

"Festivals are always brilliant and

supportive.
"Feature films are especially difreature limbs are especially difficult to get recognition as they are naturally a longer length, and it takes more time to view them when there are around 85-300 other submissions to see, so it's especially more endear-

ing when your own film gets picked even as an official selection.

"A lot of us are fans of the old Brit-

ish Horror films from Hammer Studios or Amicus, as well as stars such as the legendary Peter Cushing (my ultimate idol), and Christopher Lee. "We all grew up on those films, and

wanted to not only pay homage to them, but create our own version. "There are lots of nods to those

films within ours as well as other classic horror films such as American Werewolf in London. Even Ian McNeice's character, the sinister Architect, had his costume modelled on aspects of Peter Cushing's similar one in the chiller Beyond The Grave," he

The House of Screaming Death was one of 85 films entered for the awards.

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NEWS IN BRIEF **One-way traffic**

Sex pest in web profile sting jailed for a year

A MAN has been jailed for attempting to groom a 13-year-old girl over the internet with the intention of having sex with her. What 41-year-old Lee Bowen did not know was that the teenager did not exist and instead he had been lured into a trap by a member of an action group called Keeping Kids Safe, a court heard.

Rids Safe, a court heard.

The factory worker, from Walsall, communicated with the decoy for a month before suggesting they met, said Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

An internet profile had been created by the group under the name of Penny, who was allegedly from Nottinghamshire, and initially given an age of 14, despite users having to be 18 or over to use the site, Wolverhampton Crown court heard.

Bowen remarked on her age and the decoy replied she was really 13, not 14, the court heard.

Following the first communication

Following the first communication

Following the first communication on January 3, they messaged each other over the next four or five weeks, and Bowen eventually sent 'her' a picture of his private parts.

During their messaging he several times referred to the age gap between them and initially said he would not meet her until she was 17 but then they talked about meeting in at KFC. they talked about meeting up at KFC for food. "The defendant then took things to a higher level, talking about kissing her, playing with her and having sex in the back of his car," said Mr Spratt.

Bourse appropried to meet 'Recover' et

Mr Spratt.
Bowen arranged to meet 'Penny' at the Merry Hill public house on February 11 but was instead met by police officers who arrested him.
Bowen, of Southbourne Avenue, Walsall, admitted attempting to meet a girl under the age of 16 with a view to grooming her. He was jailed for 12 months and made the subject of a sexual harm prevention order for 10 sexual harm prevention order for 10

M6 Junction 10 plan on agenda

MAJOR plans to develop Junction 10 on the M6 were on the agenda for council bosses.

THE project to improve the heavily-congested route between Walsall and Wolverhampton was addressed at Walsall Council's upcoming Cabinet meeting yesterday, Wednesday.

They also talked through plans for new railway stations at Willenhall and Darlaston along with the expansion of

Darlaston along with the expansion of parking provision at Bloxwich North railway station. Councillor Lee Jeavons said: "A

modern transport network is vital to support inward investment for Wal-sall. It's vital for jobs but also for the safety of residents."

Michael and Josie net jobs at Saddlers who were struggling to find work have netted a job at Walsall Football Club.

Michael Gladstone, aged 25 from Michael Gladstone, aged 20 from Walsall, who has cerebral palsy, and Josie Fisher, 19 from Bloxwich, who has a physical disability, were pro-vided with one-to-one support, after seeking help from Walsall Council's Adult Social Care Employment Services team.

The team is part of Black Country Impact, which helps unemployed young adults aged 16 to 29 overcome their barriers to find work, training or education. Michael successfully completed an event planning course and now works as a match day steward, while Josie completed both SIA and

while Josie completed both SIA and CCTV training and secured a role as a security and hospitality officer. Councillor Lee Jeavons, deputy leader of Walsall Council, said: "We have enabled Michael and Josie to overcome their barriers in order to move into sustainable employment whilst also ensuring local business has a skilled workforce fit for purpose

"I urge other young adults to get in

on offer." Josie added: "My advisor, Manjula, stood by me and helped me with everything, when I needed it the most

"The support I received from Man-jula, Adult Social Care and Black Country Impact was brilliant.

Country Impact was brilliant.

"The biggest thing they have helped
me with is my confidence. This is my
first job and I have now settled in and
am enjoying the role." For help find
ing work, education or training, call
Impact on 01922 654364 or follow @
Impact_Walsall on Twitter.

due with works

A MAIN road will become one-way for a month when a roadworks scheme gets under way.

Traffic will only run north on Thornhill Road, Streetly, between the junctions of Chester Road and Hardwick Road between April 3 and April 29. Drivers have been warned to expect major disruption during the works as restrictions will be in place 24 hours a day.

Comex will be carrying out work on to install a telecomms duct on behalf of Virgin Media along the route which passes Sutton Park. Traffic regularly backs up at the busy island on Thornhill Road at peak times.

No burial fees for under-16s

FEES will not be charged for the buri-al or cremation of any child under the

Walsall Council has announced i has agreed to remove the fee citing i 'only right and proper' that the exist ing burial and cremation fees in the borough were waived.

Councillor Ian Shires, portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture said: "Dealing with the death of a baby or a child is simply devastating.

"The council does not want to add to the stress of grieving parents at such a time. It is the least we can do."

Cash and chickens stolen during raid

CASH and chickens were stolen by bogus officials from the home of a 'vulnerable' elderly couple.

Three men struck at the home in Great Wyrley last week – claiming to be from the water board and that the homeowners needed help with their water at 2.30pm last Tuesday. While one was in conversation with

a lady, two men are believed to have a lady, two men are beneved to have entered the property and stolen cash, a handbag and two blue-crested chick-ens. All three men wore hi-vis jackets and Wellington boots. Call police on 101 with any information.

Strategy to help homeless people

A NEW strategy to tackle homeless-ness in Walsall has been developed. Walsall Council says prevention is at

The partnership will deploy a variety of approaches, including early interventions to help reduce and prevent homelessness. In addition it will look to remodel temporary accommodation and provide a comprehensive housing first service for rough sleepers in the

£360,000 cash boost for community project

VOLUNTEERS at a vandal-hit community project for adults with learning disabilities are celebrating after receiving more than £360,000.

The young workers at Walsall FC

Five years ago, the Goscote Greenacres Community Garden project was set up to support adults with physical and learning disabilities, as well as address issues such as isolation and loneli-

ness amongst the elderly.

The site is also used by residents, school groups and others from social care and inclusion communities to encourage local people who share common interests and experiences to grow their own produce by coming together in a safe, interesting and social environment. Now, a total of £360,313 has been awarded in National Lottery money through the Big Lottery Fund.

Inclusion

It comes after thieves targeted the garden three times in a single week in July last year when a hosepipe and four hanging baskets, which had been arranged with flowers by users of the

community garden, were stolen.
Councillor Diane Coughlan, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for social care and inclusion welcomed the news. She said: "We would never have reached the stage we're at without the support of numerous volunteers who have given up their time. I'm confi-dent that the project can now move forward and enrich the lives of our residents who use and support the

service.

"We hope that the Goscote Greenacres Community Garden project is a model that can be replicated in other communities with similar issues."

Until now, the project has received its funding direct from the local authority, after being launched by Wal-



The Goscote Greenacres community garden celebrate its lottery funding. Back, from left, Karam Kaur, Jamie Patrick, Henry Cartwright, Peter Weston, Dave Benge and front left, Councillor Diane Coughlan and Paul Mason

sall Council Adult Social Care service in partnership with Walsall Adult Community College. But with support from the Big Lottery Fund guaranteed, the committee that oversees the initiative can now move forward with plans to further develop the grounds surrounding the Goscote Centre.

This includes maximising the site and ensuring all 42 plots are occupied by local residents and groups and

continuing with its volunteer scheme, which currently includes 17 volunteers working on site – 14 of whom have a registered disability.

have a registered disability.

Work experience opportunities will also be given to local people while a vegetable scheme will be introduced for people who are housebound or have poor mobility. The council are now working with the project partners to establish the project's next steps.

Other benefits include maintaining Other benefits include maintaining fishing rights with disabled access to the adjacent Wyrley and Essington Canal, generating revenue by selling locally grown produce in the farm shop and working in partnership with the Goscote Centre to help maintain walkways and provide educational sessions on horticulture for the benefit of the horticulture for the benefit of the selling shadow in the selling selling the selling sel efit of adults with complex learning disabilities.

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IN MY VIEW

Badger cull issue is not all black and white

UNSURPRISINGLY, public opinion is divided over plans to extend the badger cull to include Staffordshire.

On the one hand, the animal rights activists say that the mass killing of wildlife is barbaric and unscientific. On the other are the farmers, who say that thousands more cattle will have to be slaughtered

unless something is done about bovine TB which is being spread by badgers.

Experience tells me it's wise to sit on the fence with this one. That's the trouble with badgers. It's never a black and white

LET'S get this right. West Midlands Police no longer has police stations in Walsall and Dudley, two of the biggest towns in the force area. It is also planning to shut down a further 24 stations, which will leave many of our suburban and vil-lage communities without a base, saving the force an estimated £5 million a year.

Police and crime commissioner David Jamieson says the cuts are necessary to protect the number of officers as the

force faces a squeeze on finances.

"It's important to remember policing is about people not buildings," he says.

I was almost convinced. But then we

I was almost convinced. But then we get the bombshell that they are planning to spend £56 million on refurbishing the police stations in Wolverhampton and West Bromwich, as well as completely redeveloping the one at Brierley Hill. I'm sure these new-look police stations will be very nice, but I can't help but think that on before who cats beaten

tions will be very flice, but I can't help but think that anybody who gets beaten up, mugged or stabbed in the centre of Walsall or Dudley would prefer a police station within walking distance. Even if it hasn't had a refurb.

WHAT is it with kids today? According

to a survey, they are turning their back on alcohol and bingeing instead on coffee. One in five millennials describes them-selves as teetotal, and those that do drink average just two-and-a-half pints a week average just two-and-a-nair pints a week. Which explains why there were 6,000 pub closures between 2011 and 2016, and 2,000 new coffee shops opening over the same time. I suppose that is a good thing, but I do wonder about this generation.

They wander around, headphones in the ears oblivious to what is going on

They wander around, headphones in the ears, oblivious to what is going on around them; bottle of water in the one and mobile phone in the other. And their idea of a good time involves sitting in Starbucks quaffing bucket-sized mugs of extra-strong coffee, often glued to their computer screens. Probably posting stuff on Twitter about Brexit or something.

Their parents must be tearing their hair out, hoping they will grow out of it.

DON'T throw out

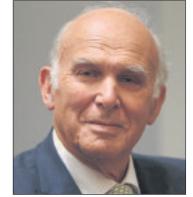
As the new 'Millionaire' host Clarkson gets some tips



Stephen Hawking – admired, cherished and respected by so many millions



Jeremy Clarkson – back on TV after altercation ended his BBC career



Vince Cable – says many older folk who opted for Brexit, "driven by nostalgia"

Best advice Jeremy: Watch what you say

sion and civilised society, Jeremy Clarkson is to be the new host of Who Wants to be a Millionaire (ITV). In view of the unpleasant altercation with a producer which ended his BBC career, the great and good have been queueing up to offer the former Top Gear presenter advice. If Clarkson can avoid shouting "You lazy Irish ----!" at Celtic colleagues and punching them in the mouth, that'll help.

SO farewell, Stephen Hawking. Never in the field of modern science has one man been so admired, cherished and respected by so many millions of people who hadn't a clue what he was on about.

I AM taken to task for suggesting that in Black Country dialect, Barclays Bank might be pronounced "bonk." A reader insists that while "bonk" would be used to describe a hill or steep rise, a high-street bank is "bank." To make things entirely clear, he adds that "bankers " is pronounced as " them robbdoggin' piggantin' wammels." I am much obliged.

VINCE Cable says many older folk who opted for Brexit, "were driven by a nostalgia for a world where passports were blue, faces were white and the world was coloured imperial pink." Really? And how many older citizens has the Lib-Dem leader interviewed to arrive at this the Lib-Dem leader interviewed to arrive at this curious conclusion? Might it not be that older voters remember voting for a free-trade area of six nations, ended up in a superstate of 27 countries and decided this was no place for the UK to be? To lump all Brexit voters into the white-face, pink-map brigade is as foolish as suggesting that young people voted Remain because they're all a bunch of wimps, frit to

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

death of change and terrified by a challenge. Clearly, a ludicrous notion.

I REFERRED recently to the strange names used in television crime dramas. (Cormoran Strike, Kip Glaspie, etc) Walking past a canal I noticed the site where chemical toilets are discharged. What a great name for a detective it would make. Introducing Elsan Point.

THIS eternally slow spring reminds me of a conversation with an old chap on the harbour wall at Axmouth some years ago when the rain was hammering down from a leaden March sky rather like this week's. "Summer must come," he intoned with a wise smile. That year, it didn't.

AFTER campaigns, such as March4Women, NotMyJob and International Women's Day, I am made shamefully aware how many women seem to be desperately unhappy about the unfairness of being female and, presumably, think being a bloke is much easier. I am therefore delighted to announce the Tofad Programme. It is inspired by the "empathy bellies" worn by some caring, considerate men who want to know how it feels to be pregnant, and hobble around wearing a padded suit with a weighted, swollen abdomen. Under the Tofad Programme, women can be-come a man for 24 hours. Firstly, they will be surgically equipped with a fully functioning male thingy. Next, they will get a large injection of testosterone which will not only make the thingy work, but also make them fantasise about sex

20 times a day which is apparently the average 20 times a day which is apparently the average for a young male (in later life one's thoughts turn to flatpack). And then, perked up by the male hormone and equipped with this curious appendage which cannot decide whether it's a battering ram or the last turkey in the shop, they will be released into society.

I BELIEVE women would come away from the Tofad (Todger For A Day) experience with a much better understanding of the male of the species. They might come to see men not as species. They hight come to see men not as rampaging beasts but as models of restraint. On the other hand, they may thoroughly enjoy the experience and refuse to hand back the equipment. The NHS has the devil of a job getting old crutches back, so you can imagine the problem.

WAS anyone else of a certain age surprised by the oft-repeated safety warnings from the gunpowder makers in Lucy Worsley's Fireworks for a Tudor Queen (BBC4)? When I were a lad, you could buy a chemistry set at your local toy show which put only contained the incredible. shop which not only contained the ingredients for gunpowder but also the instructions on how to blend it. While the Beeb's experts mixed gunpowder cautiously with a non-metallic stirrer, we merrily whisked ours up with a teaspoon. It really is amazing that so many men now drawing a pension have a full complement of fingers

STILL on weapons of mass destruction, how strange it is that the NHS, which is constantly wagging its finger and warning us of the long-term dangers of booze and baccy, waited a week before suggesting it might be an idea for people close to the Salisbury nerve-agent at-tack to wash their clothes.

TALKING POINT

Blink and all our city shops will be gone

Years ago when my daughter was small I would make a lot of her clothes. I always found sewing quite relaxing.

Nothing complicated, just simple little dresses in fun material. She loved them. But I remember when her age suddenly – it seemed that way to me as her mother – went into duble figures she mother mother – went into double figures she asked that instead of home-made could she shop with her friends and go to the 'teenage clothes shops'. This was not so much to buy, but more to check out the latest fashions and have a giggle with her friends. That was when 'going into town'

was a fun day out.

How things have changed over the years and sadly now quicker than ever. So many stores seem to be struggling and numerous branches closing down For years we have worried about empty shops in Wolverhampton but if the big chains like New Look and Debenhams,

chains like New Look and Debenhams, are struggling what hope is there for the small independent shops?

I know internet shopping has taken over our lives, why not buy sitting at home on the settee with your tablet on your knee? But surely this takes the fun out of looking for and trying on garments.

Go into many town or city centres to-day and the number of people shopping.

day and the number of people shopping is low, although there always seems to be plenty feeding their faces in the seemingly endless number of food outlets.

ly endless number of food outlets.
With grandchildren now I looked
around for a shop to buy some material
for a fancy dress costume. Where have all
the shops gone that sell this sort of thing?
Yes Wolverhampton market on a Tuesday has always been great for material
but a long trek in a lunch hour. Hopefully
when it moves closer to the city centre when it moves closer to the city centre that will help. The same with food shopping. There are no large food stores in the Mander Centre where you can pick up a shop. Iceland stepped into the breach after Tesco closed and now stocks a wider range admittedly but apart from that, one has to use the bus or cert to travel out of has to use the bus or car to travel out of

has to use the bus of such a lambda. He city.

All the major stores now seem to be based on retail parks, very useful as parking is easy. And maybe that is a big part of the problem. I work in the city century of the problem. tre but if not would I actually drive into Wolverhampton and find somewhere to park to do my shopping when many of the things I am looking for are no longer there? I don't think so. And if I want a coffee – they are expen-

sive – sorry to be mean but I would have one at home before I shop. Yes the inter-net is great but our town and city centres are slowly dying. Blink and they will be gone. Such a shame.

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Unwelcome U-turn on Brexit by Labour Party

Former MP David Winnick's support for continued membership of the EU cost Labour the Parliamentary seat in Walsall North a ward where, like Blakenall, the vote for Brexit was around 75 per cent, including mine.

Many people are confused as to what is exactly meant by the Customs toms Union, it cannot set its own Union and the Single Market and the tariffs on goods coming from outside

IT is sad that the Labour Party is rating on its supporters who voted for a group consisting of EU Member India, etc and therefore the logic is for Brexit, by now embracing a Customs States (plus a few territories that are UK not to belong to the Customs Union and even possibly a Single Marnot EU members such as Monaco and Union, given the referendum result. Let (the key pillars of the European the Isle of Man) that have joined together to remove tariffs, taxes and quo-tas on goods. Furthermore members of the Customs Union also agree to impose tariffs/taxes (all member countries agreeing the same level of tariff or tax) on goods entering from countries outside the Customs Union.

So, if the UK remains in a EU Cus-

 membership of this requires free movement of goods, services, capital (money) and people between member states. Unless the EU agrees to compromise, it is not logical that the UK can stay in the Single Market and at the same time honour the result of the

PETE SMITH Walsall

Rationing forgotten by Eurocrats

WILL someone please remind these vindictive little Eurocrats that in 1945 (or thereabouts) we continued to impose rationing on our-selves so that we could send food to starving Europe. How many months of hard negotiations did that take, I

wonder?
The latest scandal? They might make some concesmight make some concessions so long as they can continue fishing in our waters. As I understand it 85 per cent of our remaining fishing fleet is made up of small boats and they are allocated four per cent of the UK allowance. They can the up their surface in a sin use up their quotas in a sin-gle trip. So when Penelope Keith tours coastal villages and asks why the once packed harbours are now deserted we know where to look for an answer.

I just don't understand how we can be expected to hold a conversation with them let alone 'negotia-

CLIVE FORD

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story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Divided nation must be given vote again

UNLESS we have a second referendum, the divisions in the country will never be healed. Only 37 per cent of those entitled to vote, voted to leave. Deliberately misleading information was paraded as fact. A second vote should include 16-18-year-olds, after all it is their future at risk.

The electorate now have much more information on which to make a decision and everyone who is entitled to vote must vote. I am a determined Remainer but I would accept the result of a second referendum. We regularly vote for MPs and councillors so why not have a second referendum on a matter that will affect us for decades?

remember **Small Faces**

MY name's Guy Mowbray from Sheffield. I'm a writer and musician, finishing a detailed book about The Small Faces (Steve Marriott etc) on tour: 1965-1969.

etc) on tour: 1965-1969.
I'm looking to speak with fans who remember a gig on March 18, 1967 at The Gaumont, Wolverhampton. On the bill were: Roy Orbison with The Candymen, The Small Faces, Paul and Bayer, Brus Scany, Child Barry Ryan, Sonny Child and T.N.T, The Settlers and The Robb Storme Group.

Also on the bill originally was Jeff Beck with Rod Stewart and Ronnie Wood who all lasted for around 10 minutes at The Finsbury Park Astoria before with-drawing from the tour. PP

Arnold replaced them. There have been some There have been some big-hitting musicians in-volved with interviews so far including: Jon Anderson (Yes) Simon Kirke (Free), Arthur Brown and Nick

Lowe.
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Leader tells EDL march organisers to stay away

protesters are set to return to Walsall next month - but have immediately been told

to stay away.

The far-right group announced they are heading to Walsall on Saturday, April 7 but have been told by council leader Sean Coughlan

'this is not the place for the EDL.'
The group said in a statement that it was planning to march in Wolverhampton but had now switched it to

Councillor Coughlan said: "I'm disappointed they have chosen to do it in our town when there are not any issues that they recognise in their view of the world. The EDL try to create divisions rather than bringing people together. We're trying to do the opposite. This is not the place for the EDL."

Divisions

Mayor of Walsall Marco Longhi said the group's sole aim was to create divisions in communities.

He said: "One of the things I've done He said: "One of the things I've done since becoming mayor of the town has been working extremely hard in getting to know some of the diverse communities we have in the town. We have got an enormous amount of goodwill and we should be shouting about that in Walsall.

"Anything that comes into the town and rather than build bridges tries to do exactly the opposite should be re-

do exactly the opposite snould be resisted as much as possible."

The Mayor said the EDL's claims about issues in the town were 'just a ruse to inflame communities'.

He added: "I absolutely do not welcome the EDL coming to Walsall. I would much rather they didn't.



Protesters seen with their flags during a previous EDL march in Walsall

by people in the town.

Nine arrests were made the last time the EDL marched through the town in

"They seem to thrive on wanting to drive division. It's very unwelcome and I just wish they would find something better to do with their time."

The EDL said the demonstration in Walsall would pass off peacefully and claimed their visit would be supported by people in the town.

The EDL has previously made claims about Walsall having a profite of which is the claims abo

anti-Muslim hate in towns and cities across the UK.

The EDL has previously made claims about Walsall having a problem with child exploitation and parts of the town being 'no-go areas' - both of which have been rubbished by police.

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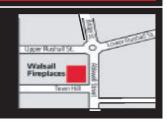
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Carer Racheal's kindness rewarded



Tom Davis with Racheal, who he nominated for the award at Ash Grange care home in Bloxwich

A WOMAN who works at a Walsall care home has received a special award for the kindness she shows residents on a daily basis.

Racheal Lloyd received a Kindness In Care Award, after she was nominated by Tom Davis, who is a relative of a resident at Ash Grange, in Bloxwich, run by HC-One. Tom stated that Racheal has a great attitude and is always kind and considerate to all. He also commented that she often goes the extra mile to meet the needs of the residents.

HC-One Managing Director, Amanda Scott, said: "The Kindness in Care Awards programme is about recognising and celebrating colleagues who demonstrate the kindest care and the best practice that we can all learn from."

The home is also celebrating achieving a 9.6/10 average rating on the sector's leading care home comparison website carehome.co.uk. For more information or to arrange a tour, visit www.hc-one.co.uk or call 0333 999 8403.

Over 50 job losses after care

OVER 50 staff are going to be made redundant after a service which cares for people in Walsall will close due to cuts.

Holly Bank House will shut at the end of June due to proposed changes to the rehabilitation services by Walsall Council and 56 staff based at the home in Coltham Road, Willenhall, will lose their jobs.

The service, which has a good' rating from the Care By Charlotte Callear and Quality Commission (CQC), cares for up to 21 people on the site temporarily before they can return home and over 100 in their own home for individuals who require care for demen-tia, substance misuse, and learning or physical disabil-

The service is provided by Walsall Council with Com-munity Healthcare Therapy and funded by Walsall CCG through the Better Care Fund.

A new model of care will be in place instead where a number of short term a number of short term Nursing Home placements will be commissioned by Walsall CCG to provide care and Community Healthcare Therapists will support

their rehabilitation pro-

portable recives an observed of the results of the that people receive support on discharge from hospital more quickly and in a more cost effective way."

The proposed changes to the rehabilitation service have been in discussion for

a number of weeks but have only recently been finalised. Staff affected were con-sulted at the earliest opportunity, in line with usual staff consultation proce-dures.







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Armed robbers raid petrol station shop

ARMED robbers demanded mon-ey from terrified staff at a petrol station during a late-night raid.

Two men stole cash after storming into the Morrisons petrol station shop in Middle Piece Way, Willenhall.

They arrived as staff were getting ready to close up at midnight.

A spokeswoman for West Midlands Police said: "Police were called to reports of an arrived reblem of the Middle of the property o

said: "Folice were called to reports of an armed robbery at Morrisons petrol station, Middle Piece Way, Willenhall, at around 11.30pm on Saturday.

"Two offenders – one believed to be carrying a metal bar – entered the shop and demanded money from staff.

"They made off with a quantity of cash." It came just four days after the News and

It came just four days after the News and Booze off-licence in Ablewell Street, Walsall, was targeted by raiders.

San, was targeted by raiders.
Shop owner Shamim Khan and his son
Romush had a 'scuffle' before the 18-yearold was attacked with an unknown spray on Tuesday, March 6.

Customers

The robber then pulled a handgun on Romush and customers before exiting the shop with a 'couple of hundred pounds' and

shop with a 'couple of hundred pounds' and a haul of cigarettes. No-one involved in the incident was injured, police said.

Willenhall South councillor, Diane Coughlan, said she was 'losing count' of the number of raids and break-ins in the town. "I am totally shocked about this," she said. "I just hope the staff are okay and that the police are able to get them. e've got to clamp down on this in the town."

It is not known whether the two raids are linked. Between February 2017 and January this year, there have been 100 recorded incidents of robbery in Willenhall.

Anyone with information about Saturday's raid is asked to call police officers

day's raid is asked to call police officers with details on 101, quoting crime reference number 20WS/55384W/18.

Man treated after crash



The house in Shire Oak, Walsall which needed propping up with wooden beams after a car collided into it

A MAN was taken to hospital after a car crashed into a house at Pauls Coppice, in Shire Oak, Walsall.

The building was left damaged at the front which needed propping up by wooden beams. Three fire crews were sent to the scene at 9.09pm last Wednesday

West Midlands Fire Service

spokesman Matthew Smith said: "A male suffered injuries from the crash and was taken to Walsall $Manor\ Hospital.$

"Structural damage has been caused. Technical rescue teams are liaising with the structural engineer and property owner to formulate a plan to make the property safe."



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Royston Randle gives his new chair the thumbs-up IT'S a thumbs-up from Super Saddler Royston Randle as he tries out his new specialist chair bought thanks to the donations of fellow Walsall FC fans.

donations of fellow Walsall FC fans.

A £500 fundraiser appeal to buy the electric riser chair was launched by Royston's great niece Chantelle Walker. Royston, travel secretary for Walsall FC Supporters Club, has chronic mycleoid leukaemia and an aggressive form of prostate cancer. At the time Chantelle said Royston was finding it difficult to get on and off his chair and said "as a once independent 70-year-old, this is causing him to feel down and like a burden."

down and like a burden."

The full cost of the bespoke chair, to meet Royston's needs, was around £3,000. But generous Saddlers fans quickly smashed through the £500 target with over £1,000 in donations plus money donated by Walsall FC from the sale of the 50/50 tickets.

Chantelle gave thanks to all those who donated. She said: "It takes him two seconds to get out his chair now!" She also said: "I'd like to thank each and every one of the Saddlers fans who have donated. It just goes to show that the Saddlers fans are one big family."

Donor Rob Peters said: "He is one of the good guys and deserves the support of fellow Saddlers everywhere."

Chair-iffic fans thanked Social Club members hit out at work delay

way for a housing development are upset over a wait for a replacement venue.

Pelsall Labour Club, in Church Road, was demolished ahead of a development for 24 homes by Dunedin Pelsall Ltd three years ago. Under an agreement with the firm a new club venue has been built – but it is still not open.

In a statement, the firm accepts the the building opening had taken longer than expected, but blamed

than expected, but biamed 'many issues' with develop-ment at the site.

Member Steve Lowbridge, aged 58, said: "The club sold the car park to the developthe car park to the develop-ers three years ago. They said they would build the club first – they didn't do that initially, built all 24 houses first and left the club to last. All the homes have been sold and people have lived in them for 12 months but the builders haven't touched the club since Oc-

"They've given us dates for opening but failed to meet them every time."

Roy Stackhouse, 72, and a member for 54 years, said:

By Alex Ross

"I've been a member for 54 years and have always used this club. The club got into a bit of difficulty so decided to sell, the developer said he would build a new club first.

"People that used to be "People that used to be here have already moved to other clubs. The darts and snooker team have gone somewhere else. It's going to be hard to get people back in. Hopefully we can get something moving now."

In a statement, Dunedin Pelsall Ltd said: "Once highways have given us permission to work at the front

mission to work at the front of the building, we will be opening the club. "I understand their frustration. The whole development has taken longer than we would have liked."



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LABOUR'S shadow housing minister LABOUR'S shadow housing minister has urged councils to clampdown on rogue landlords leaving thousands of tenants 'living in hazardous conditions'.

John Healey said the West Midlands was one of the worst in the country in

was one of the worst in the country in terms of the poor quality of its private rented homes, with around one in four properties not fit for people to live in. Speaking during a visit to Walsall, he warned the health of tenants was being put at risk by faulty electrical wiring,

chronic damp and vermin infestations. But Mr Healey praised the borough council for its efforts to force unscrupu-lous landlords to improve conditions in

their properties.

"It is a major problem everywhere, but the West Midlands has a bigger problem than most other places when it comes to private rented homes that are not up to scratch," he said.

"There are too many tenants who just can't get their landlords to do what they should. In fact, one in four private rented homes don't even qualify as

being fit for human habitation.
"I'm talking about properties with faulty electrical wiring that can cause a

factory electrical wiring that can cause a fire, condensation or damp, they've got vermin infestations."

Mr Healey said Labour was leading legislation which it had got the Government to back proposals to give tenants the legal right to take their landlord to court if they did not make necessary im-provements. "But in the meantime, peo-ple need a council like Walsall to step in and lean on landlords that aren't doing the job," he said.

During his visit, Mr Healey met with Walsall council leader Sean Coughlan to

waisan council leader Sean Coughlan to discuss new plans for a licensing scheme for private landlords in the town.

Mr Healey added: "All credit to the council for putting this in place. It shouldn't be needed, but it is."

Politician calls for crackdown Hockey team in silent on poor quality tribute to player Alex



TWO minutes' silence was held despite blizzard conditions in tribute to hockey player Alex Lees ahead of a match in which he had been due to play.

The 19-year-old was one of two young men who died when the motorcycle they were riding was in collision with a Rover car on Broadway West, in Walsall, last Tuesday.

Alex played on the wing for Wednesbury Hockey Club's first team and poignantly his name was still on the team sheet for Saturday's game at Willenhall E-Act Academy against Wulfrunians.

Before the match his No 7 team shirt was laid on the half-way line while his team mates, wearing black arm bands, lined up on the centre circle for the

They were joined by Alex's parents Mike and

Fiona Lees and grandparents Irene and Bill Griffiths, as well as club chairman-manager John Taylor. Mr Lees said his son had played for the club since

he was five.

"He grew up in the club and I loved coming to watch him play. We were very proud of him.

"We've been inundated with wonderful messages

from players and former players who travelled to the club from far and wide after the game to speak to us, which has been a consolation to us.

"People have said such positive things about him.
"You know your son as a parent but it's at times like this, when you hear other people's reflections, that you fully realise what a really nice young man

ne was.

Mr Lees said his son, a second-year engineering student at Sandwell College, had only had his motorbike for four months but was an experienced mo-



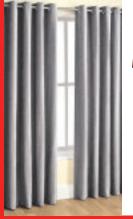














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Sailing ahead for youngsters

A SAILING charity near Walsall hopes to double the number of young people it gets

on the water this year.
The Chase Sailing Club, based at Chasewater near Brownhills, will be scrubbing down their boats and boards on April 7 before they start welcoming new youngsters. The charity is part of RYA OnBoard, a national grassroots scheme that aims to make it easier and cheaper to get more young people on the water

YS@C gives anyone aged 10 to 18 the scheme go to chasesc.org.uk

chance to hone their sailing or windsurfing skills and have fun afloat at low cost during their weekly three-hour Saturday morning sessions. These run until October. Sailors come from schools, youth groups and families while others use sailing towards completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Libby Constance, a YS@C training officer, said: "What sailing can do for young people goes beyond the notion of 'sport'.

For further information about the scheme go to chasescorg.uk

Street admits skills shortage is top priority



Lord Digby Jones, left, with Bob Warman and Andy Street at the debate

METRO Mayor Andy Street has admitted that tackling the West Midlands' chronic skills shortage is "the single biggest political challenge I face this year."

And he has called on business to back ambitious plans for the region to take

more control of education in a bid to plug the skills gap. Set to meet with new Education Secretary Damian Hinds in the next fortnight, Mr Street said he would be pushing a new regional skills plan targeting advanced manufacturing,

would be pushing a new regional skills construction and digital training.

For the plan to work, however, the region needed "more cash and more power" to hold colleges and schools to account.

Mr Street said he supported the idea of the Apprenticeship Levy, but 60 per cent of the money raised was going to the Treasury instead of being sent on training.

instead of being spent on training.
Despite facing Whitehall opposition, he said he would continue trying to get Levy money raised in the West Midlands re-

turned to the region to spend on training.
The Metro Mayor was speaking at a breakfast debate between two of the re-

gion's leading political and business figures.
Facing him across the table at The Hawthorns was Lord Digby Jones, former head of the CBI and one-time Trade Minister.

Disparate

Black Country-based property and investment family the Richardsons brought the pair together in front of an invited audience of more than a hundred business

people.

Central TV veteran presenter Bob Warman acted as MC, raising a laugh when he dubbed the physically disparate duo "Little

& Large".

Lord Jones received a lot of backing from the audience when he called for a new law to stop bigger firms "bullying" their smaller suppliers by forcing them to accept longer

payment terms.

Taking questions from the floor, Lord Jones was talking about the damage the

collapse of Wolverhampton-based Carillion had caused to its suppy chain companies. Many firms forced to accept longer payment terms would now not get paid at all, he said. "We should have a criminal charge so

Report by Simon Penfold

that financial directors face prosecution if that inhalitial directors rate prosecution in they change contracts and payment terms unilaterally.

Something big has to happen to help

something big has to happen to help small business get paid on time by big businesses," said Lord Jones.

And Andy Street took the opportunity to applaud the work of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce in aiding the supply chain companies struggling in the wake of Carillian's colleges. Carillion's collapse.

Carilhon's collapse.

Despite campaigning to leave the EU,
Lord Jones described himself as a 'reluctant
Brexiteer' and said negotiating the UK's departure was "going to be damn difficult".
But many countries outside the EU were keen to strike new trade deals with Britain,

Mr Street admitted he had voted to re main but said part of his job now was ensur-

main out sain part of his join low was eristing Government understood what the West Midlands needed from a Brexit deal.

While exports only accounted for eight per cent of GDP in London, in the West Midlands it was 24 per cent. "I think a good deal will be done for the West Midlands, but webshly it the 11th hour of the 11th day." probably at the 11th hour of the 11th day,' said Mr Street.

Drivers facing nightly closures

MOTORISTS will be diverted for six weeks when a stretch of motorway on the M54 is shut overnight from April. The work will see the westbound carriageway from junction 2 of the M54 near the i54 business estate to junction 10A of the M6 for Essing-

tate to junction 10A of the M6 for Essington, closed from 8pm until 6am.

Work will begin on April 3 and clearly signed diversion routes will be put in during the necessary closures, which have been agreed with the Staffordshire County Council. It is expected that the work will be finished on May 10. A diversion will see traffic

taken through the A460 in Featherstone and Shareshill, along the M6 until junction 12, the A5 to Gailey roundabout and down the A449 near Four Ashes.

Mark Round, spokesman for Highway England urged motorists to be patient while the work is carried out. Staffordshire County Councillor for South Staffordshire, David Williams, said:

"It is going to put a strain on the A460 and obviously it is going to slow a lot of things up. But if it is essential maintenance hopefully it will be done quickly."





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is going back to his roots to put on a one man show to raise money for a group in desperate need of money.

desperate need of money.

He started acting with The Grange
Players in Walsall and now, as a patron for them, they need his help after
racking up a £60,000 maintenance
bill for their base in Broadway North
which threatens the group's existence.

He will be putting on two performances of the
one-man perfor-



one-man perfor-mance he co-wrote mance he co-wrote
alongside the
award-winning
playwright Gail
Louw called And
This Is My Friend
Mr Laurel.
Hellond will play

Jeffrey Holland
Holland will play
the part of Stan
Laurel as he looks back over years
he has had with Oliver Hardy and recounts one of the greatest cinematic partnerships of all time.

Enthusiasm

There are 150 tickets available for each performance at 8pm on June 8 and 9 that cost £10 at Aldridge Youth

and 9 that cost £10 at Aldridge Youth Theatre, Noddy Park Road. He said: "It means an awful lot to me. I started my acting at the Grange and went on from there to do profes-sional acting. It is heart breaking but there is a lot of enthusiasm around there is a lot of enthusiasm around fundraising. My performances are just the tip of the iceberg. It really is the least I can do. We go back a long way. Once they get back on their feet, it will be fine. It is the only kind of theatre in the area, it is unique."

He started with the players when haves 17 in 1965. To belly reign work.

he was 17 in 1965. To help raise more



Temporary chairman Pete Smith outside the Grange Playhouse

money, a quiz is being held on at 7.30pm on March 23 at The Saddlers in Walsall plus they are doing a performance of Funny Money at Bloxwich Library Theatre at 7.45pm from May 18 to 26 but not including Sunday.

She said: "We have already started ork, which is fantastic.

work, which is fantastic.
"We are still short of our total but at least we have managed to raise enough

"We are very excited to be able to do this, it will also help raise much needed funds for the theatre." Tickets for the shows can be bought by contacting 07909 036835 or email-

ing box.office@grangeplayers.co.uk



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WOLVERHAMPTON

Legalise cannabis to stop the pain, says MP

made a desperate plea for Parliament to legalise cannabis for medicinal purposes.

The Lichfield Conservative,

whose constituency includes Burntwood, said: "If a doctor says that cannabis is the only cure or the only way to alleviate pain, surely they should be legally al-

surely they should be legally allowed to prescribe that drug?"
Mr Fabricant spoke on behalf of thousands of suffering patients, including Vicky Clarke, from Burntwood, who battles with multiple sclerosis, an illness he says has 'decimated' her family.

Together with her husband Andy, they say cannabis is the only medicine that can ease the acute and stabbing pain caused by MS.

Raising the issue with Home Office Minister Nick Hurd, Mr Fabricant said: "We are not talking about the general administration of cannabis; we are talking about the medical prescrip-

said: "We are not talking about the general administration of cannabis; we are talking about the medical prescription of cannabis."

Mrs Clarke was diagnosed with Primary Progressive MS in her mid-30s, just over a decade ago.

The stabbing pain she experienced in her shoulder forced her to give up her job as a teacher in Walsall. After trying other treatments, cannabis-based butter and marijuana smoothies immediately soothed her pain. But brushes with the law ensued.

Mr Hurd told the House of Commons: "They still have to operate within the law. The law does permit the development, licensing and marketing of medicines, including those containing controlled drugs, such as cannabis. The Home Office and the Government are keeping this area under review."



Vicky Clarke, with husband Andy, says MS has decimated her family

Revved up for show's return

MIDLANDS' Motorfest will return to the region next month with up to 1,000 cars spanning a century of motoring for visitors to enjoy.

It will make its return to Weston

Park on Easter Sunday, April 1.
From classic American cars and European imports to 'fast Fords' and British icons, Motorfest attracts a wide range of vehicles including vintage commercials and custom cars.

The 'Decibel Duel' competition to find the loudest engine returns to the live arena. Judges will be on site for the annual Weston Park Concours which ends in the 'Best in Show'

which enter in the Best in Show award at 4pm.

Tickets cost £8 for adults, £3 for children and £20 for a family ticket, if booked in advance. Tickets are also available on the gate. For more infor-partity right else interest to a large mation, visit classicmotorshows.co.uk





m mates and fans show their support during the first home game







Carl Ikeme - diagnosed last year

WOLVES fans' support for Carl Ikeme helped Cure Leukaemia achieve a record-breaking year smashing the £2 million mark for the first time.

Cash raised for the cancer charity will allow an expansion of a new hae-matology centre at the Queen Eliza-beth Hospital in Birmingham to go

Wolves and their supporters have been thanked for helping make 2017 the charthanked for helping make 2017 the charity's most successful year. The charity reached its goal of raising an extra £1m during the year to make the hospital expansion a reality – around 10 per cent of which was raised through the Carl Ikeme appeal. The Wolves fanbase was left stunned when the popular goalkeeper was diagnosed with acute leukaemia last summer.

Shoot-out

Several initiatives have been organised since, bringing in thousands of pounds for the charity, which operates with just five members of staff.

members of staff.

A 24-hour penalty shoot-out was held at Molineux in August in support of Ikeme and the charity. A bucket collection before the first home game of the season against Middlesbrough brought in £8,000. Cash was also raised through proceeds from the printing of goalkeeper shirts with 'Ikeme 1' on the back.

The total for the #The Telestone in the stake.

on the back.

The total for the #TeamKemes Just Giving page currently stands at more than £110,000. A total of £2.2 million was raised during the year for Cure Leukaemia, including the extra £1 million which will see the internationally renowned Centre for Clinical Haematology (CCH) at the hospital double its capacity and treat 20 0000 pa. tal double its capacity and treat 20,000 pa

tients a year.

The sizeable donation will make up almost a third of the total cost of the £3.4 million hospital project.

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launched in the borough.
Since a partnership between the NSPCC and Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) started in July, teachers and parents across the borough have been sharing a message with pupils. The Talk PANTS campaign supports and encourages profes-sionals, parents and carers to talk to children aged four to 11 about staying safe from

sexual abuse, with five key points. The tools and resources give parents clear and simple ways to open these conversations in a childfriendly way

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, portfolio holder for children's services and education at Walsall Council, said: ""It can be a difficult subject to broach and professionals and par-ents can be apprehensive about how much to share with children. These resources mean we can build resilience and protect

Industry chiefs will play key role in festival



A sign for the upcoming event, at one of the venues, the Light House in Wolverhampton A BATCH of high-profile industry leaders have been recruited to add

weight to the upcoming Black Country Business Festival.

The 10 will play a key role leading their particular sector of industry as the festival gets under way next month with around 120 events taking place across the Black Country. Developed by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and running from April 23 to May 4, the festival is planned as a major showcase of

running from April 23 to May 4, the festival is planned as a major slindustry and commerce in the region.

The programme of events is made up of trade shows, seminars, workshops and conferences of all descriptions – put on by local companies to help other local organisations and individuals to grow and develop.

The organisers say that to raise the profile of the festival more widely, the programme of events has been divided into hine key sectors that are important to the centre's forthcoming £100 and the centr

gramme of events has been divided into nine key sectors that are important to the economic growth of the area or that have significant growth potential.

Each sector is led by a business professional who is well-known in their industry and extremely knowledgeable in their area

of expertise.

Sector leads are confirmed as:
Advanced manufacturing – consultant Paul Nicol: Automotive - Trevor Leeks of Jaguar

Land Rover; Creative industries – Kelly Jeffs, CEO

Light House; Education – Jatinder Sharma, principal and chief executive, Walsall College;

Hospitality and tourism – Andrew Lovett, CEO, Black Country Living Museum;

Professional services, business support and communications – Ian Bond, director and head of trusts and estates at Talbots Law and Shaun Carvill, managing director at Clickingmad;

Property and construction – Stephen Tracey, construction manager at Wates

Retail – Dan Murphy, regional centre director at intu Merry Hill;

Transport and logistics – Stuart Everton, Black Country Director of Transport, City of Wolverhampton Council.

Events are set to take place in every sector. In retail, Intu Merry Hill is showcasing exclusive artists' impressions and plans of the centre's forthcoming £100 million de-

velopment to further improve the centre. Retail sector lead, Dan Murphy said: "The Black Country has thriving businesses, innovative attractions and most importantly inspiring communities all proud of being from the Black Country.

"The introduction of the Black Country

"The introduction of the Black Country Business Festival has created a platform for the area to showcase all of this not only nationally but internationally making it truly an exciting time to be part of the region."

Digital agency, Clickingmad is running two events to help businesses to learn tips and tricks that will make their website out from the crowd and turn it into a great

from the crowd and turn it into a great sales tool, Managing director Shaun Carsales tool. Managing director Shaun Car-vill said: "The Business Festival will help vill said: "The Business Festival will help put the Black Country back where it be-longs; at the top of the list when it comes to business investment, opportunities and job creation and also to acknowledge where the industrial revolution had its first great

expansion."

For more information, visit the website at www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com email hello@blackcountrybusinessfestival.com or call 01902 912304.

Plans for 'eyesore' pub backed

restaurant have been praised. An applica-tion to transform the former Scott Arms Inn in Darlaston have been submitted.

Under the proposals for the Darlaston Road site, it would become a Chinese restaurant if plans are accepted. Councillor Doug James, who represents the Darlaston ward, said the building will improve the

gateway to Darlaston Town Centre.

"I followed up concerns of local residents about the unsightly former pub with the owner and was reassured that plans were

PLANS to convert an 'eyesore' pub into a to be brought forward that would potentially bring benefit to local residents and deal with the condition of the building in a positive way," he said. "With new residents moving into the new housing estate nearby on the former Servis Factory site we have a win-win situation that improves our local environment and our night economy. "I would thank local residents who sup-

ported my efforts and want the best for their town. I hope these plans help improve the locality and bring new life to a very notable building.

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Residents in appeal for **CCTV** to tackle fly-tippers

CALLS have been made to install CCTV on a fly-tipping hotspot following concerns from residents.
Police have been asked to imple-

ment the crime-busting measures on Forster Street in Smethwick

on Forster Street in Smethwick where gas canisters were dumped. It comes as residents launched a petition lobbying Sandwell Council to take action on the road which is located next to two schools. Councillor Zahoor Ahmed said: "I am in favour of CCTV. When it comes to through which is no see locking to the contract of the contract o

am in favour of CCTV. When it comes to throwing rubbish we are looking into that quite seriously.

"We have caught people and we are doing to take to court. We are doing all we can as a council to make sure things get cleared quickly. There are a lot of things happening and that is all we can do."

Removal

Members of Sandwell Council visited the site with the head petitioner where it was found that cleanliness levels had dipped to a level deemed

unacceptable.

The inspection found that the site needed urgent attention including the removal of the leaf litter and discarded gas canisters. In response to fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour Sandwell Council are considering the request to monitor the site.

West Midlands Police have instructed officers to patrol the area.

The police were asked to consider

whether CCTV could be installed at the site to deter behaviour and obtain evidence for enforcement action where appropriate. It comes as calls have also come for CCTV cameras to be installed at another dumping site in Halesowen, Dudley. Mounds of rubbish were left



An example of the fly-tipping which takes place at Forster Street, Smethwick

discarded on Shelah Road in Hale-sowen – with councillors saying there was 'no need' for it to happen. Belle Vale councillor Simon Phipps is calling on Dudley Council to bring in the crime tackling measures in a bid to catch offenders.

He said: "There is absolutely no need or excuse for people dumping their rubbish at the side of the road

like this. Shelah Road has unfortu-nately become a target for this activ-ity recently and they'll carry on until something is done to catch offenders or prevent it from happening in the first place. "In a month that is supposed to be

'The Great British Spring Clean' it is sad to see that some people treat our area in such a way."



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Hundreds have say on housing blueprint

HUNDREDS of people have had a say on where new homes and businesses should be built across the Black Country in the next 20

Residents in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall were asked to give their views on a new planning blueprint for the area.

> By Megan Archer ment, with suggestions in-cluding the former Goodyear factory in Wolverhampton.

> Suggestions also included taking on a third of the land at Perton Park Golf Club – due to falling membership levels – to build nearly 1,000

Tthe four councils are still

accepting submissions for potential development sites. Visit blackcountrycorestrat-

egy.dudley.gov.uk

More than 1,500 responses were submitted as part of the Black Country Core Strategy with opinions given on 3,500 local issues.

Once the council examines the data, it will officially put it into place in 2021, outlining where new homes and businesses should be built in the four boroughs over the next two decades.

Thoughts

Some 150 specific sites were submitted as consid-eration for new home locations, as either residential or industrial development, and more than 300 com-

and more than 300 comments were received on so-cial media sites.

Locals put forward their thoughts on which spare land would be best to carry out any potential develop-

Alfie walks on to help young Leon



Fundraiser Alfie, left, shares a bit of fun with Leon Thompson, who has cerebral palsy

A SCHOOLBOY is to embark on a 100-mile charity walk to raise funds to help a poorly youngster walk and live pain free. Alfie Baugh, aged 11, wants to raise £6,000 towards vital treatment that will help five-year-old Leon Thompson, who has cerebral palsy.

The Christchurch C of E Junior School pupil, from Tethenhall, has given up his school trip to take on the walk – and has donated the £430 cost of it to Leon's cause.

He said: "I was touched by his story and want to help by raising some money towards his treatment."

homes.

As part of the consultation residents were also asked about affordable homes, and how many years it would likely take for the site to be developed.

Consultation on the second stage of the strategy is expected to start later this year. On March 30 Alfie will walk 100 miles over seven days, from Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, where Leon is having surgery, to Molineux.

He has been backed by Wolves captain Conor Coady, and Bilston-based firm EDM Group has donated £500 to pay for his hotel stays and walking gear.

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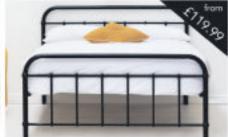
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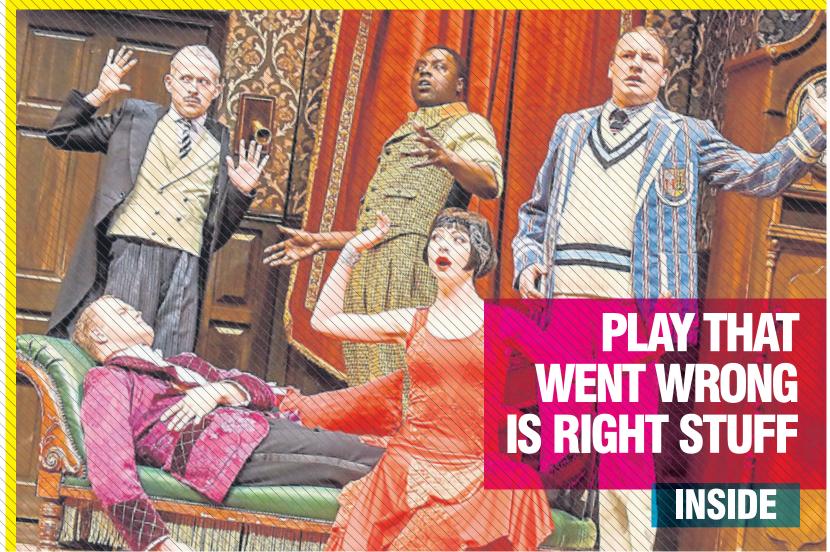
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Playing for laughs as play went right

Playing for laughs – The Play

That Went Wrong

brilliantly funny comedy that will have fans aching with laughter will head to the Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to March 31. The Play That Goes Wrong features the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society who are putting on a 1920s murder mystery.

As the title suggests, everything that can go wrong. does and as the accident prone thesps battle on against all the odds to reach their final curtain call, hilarious

Hailed 'a gut-busting hit' by the New York Times, Mischief Theatre's sell-out West End comedy, which is now playing on Broadway, has won a host of celebrity endorsements from the likes of Joanna Lumley who said: "We laughed until the tears ran down our faces, it has to be seen" to Ant & Dec, who said: "The funniest show we've seen! If you can get a ticket, go!"

The show is returning to Birmingham after a sell-out run

Director Mark Bell created the West End productions of the Olivier Award-winning The Play That Goes Wrong, as well as The Comedy About a Bank Robbery. He originally wanted to be an actor but spent a lot of his career training and teaching the art of clowning and is a virtuoso at shaping comedy.

CHOICE

He was immediately drawn to The Play That Goes Wrong. "It needs to make me laugh, or I can see how it would be funny. Sometimes on the page they don't look like that much, but I was at the very first reading of The Play That Goes Wrong and that was obvious – I could see where they were going to take the characters, playing off their idea of the audience - that was an easy "I honestly don't know, I don't have a method – you just read it a couple of times

and see if you can picture how you would do it. I knew straight away the kind of actors I

would want and how I would approach it."

Mark puts in hours and hours during rehearsals to make sure his shows are funny. "You just don't know - sometimes it's the little innocuous things that you've put in to bridge from one moment to the next suddenly start getting

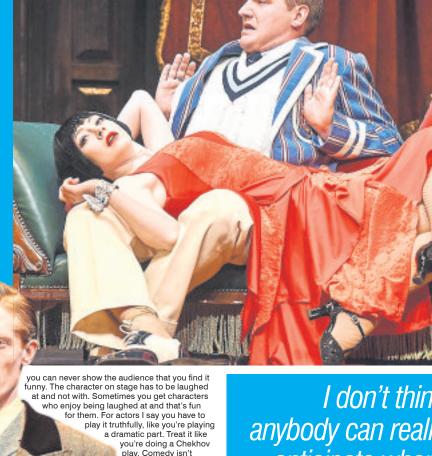
a laugh, and you just wonder why. "Usually the penny drops and you see why. I don't think anybody can really anticipate where the laughs will land, sometimes it's just a simple movement that an actor does that's funny. I would say about 80 per cent of stuff that we put in rehearsal lands and we don't have to change, and there's always a

couple of things that you're sad aren't

working and you have to

change. He says the most important thing is that people take their characters seriously, even in shows as silly as The Play That Goes Wrong.

"As the actor playing it



easier than dramatic acting, it's ten times as hard. You need the

same dramatic truth

that you have for the character but in a

ridiculously absurd setting, whilst getting

your blocking and

your timing exactly

right, otherwise you

don't get the laugh that you need for

the show to move

on. You've got to be

both truthful and a

UK production has

been described as

as a Conservative

manifesto pledge

immigration

having sets as shaky

that's hard." The successful

master technician at

the same time – and

I don't think anybody can really anticipate where the laughs will land

and a script as tortuous as a Diane Abbott interview The show originally started in a pub theatre before transferring to the Trafalgar Studios, enjoying a UK tour and an extended run at the Duchess Theatre in the West

The writers and creators of the play, Henry Shields, Henry Lewis and Jonathan Sayer, are stunned that they were able to recreate their madcap roles on Broadway. Henry Shields says: "It's been very positive. We've

been overwhelmed as to how supportive American audiences have been.

Henry Lewis adds: "We haven't really changed much most of the show is performed as it is in London. Over the course of the whole journey of the show lots has changed as it has been performed, but it hasn't changed much for Broadway audiences, just a few terms that aren't used in the USA and making sure that's clear."

 For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Traumatic times inspiring

New York trio Sunflower Bean tomorow (Friday) release their second album, Twentytwo in Blue, ahead of a gig at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath, on Tuesday. The album gets its title from the fact that all

members of the band - Julia Cumming, Jacob Faber and Nick Kivlen – are 22-years-old.

The album comes just over two years since the release of their critically acclaimed debut album Human Ceremony. Since then the band's classic rock inspired sound has matured and gigs supporting Wolf Alice last year have won them new fans in the UK.

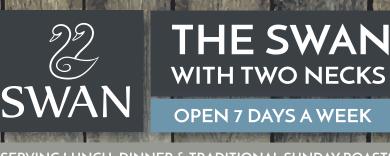
Twentytwo in Blue shows Sunflower Bean staying true to their quitar band core, while exploring new sonic textures with more direct and progressive

since playing together in their high school days.

To celebrate the album Sunflower Bean share a new single, Crisis Fest, the follow up to the catchy, almost Fleetwood Mac-like, I Was A Fool.

"2017-we know/ Reality's one big sick show/ Every day's a crisis fest," vocalist and bassist Julia sings. "Last year was extremely alarming, traumatic, and politically volatile," says the band. "While writing this album, we often reflected back on the people we met

"We felt a strong kinship with the audiences that came to see us all over the country, and we wanted to write a song for them - something to capture the anxieties of an uncertain future."



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Disney favourites

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The latest show is called Worlds of Enchantment and fans can enter the dazzling world of Disney

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There will be the high-speed

stunts of Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's Cars, who will race across the ice like never before.

Fans can dive into adventure with Ariel in The Little Mermaid's enchanted undersea kingdom.

The toys are back in town as Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the Toy Story gang escape from the rambunctious tots of Sunnyside Daycare in their most daring adventure ever.

And fans can also enter the wintry world of Arendelle with

sisters Anna and Elsa and pals Olaf and Kristoff from Disney's Frozen, as they learn that true love comes from within.

For tickets visit www.disneyonice com or call the hotline on 0844 338

Performance Director for Disney on Ice, former Olympian Jackie Soames, is particulary happy that the world tour is coming to Birmingham as she hails from nearby Nuneaton. She embarked on her remarkable career, both solo and in pairs with John Jenkins, after learning to skate at Solihull Ice Rink at the age of eight.

The HORSE & JOCKEY

Gareth + Jill welcome you

Lunch Bunch

12pm - 5pm Monday - Friday 2 Courses £4.85 3 Courses £5.85

Traditional Sunday Carvery

Sunday 12pm - 5pm £6.99 for adults £3.99 child

arvery now served 7 days a week. Mon - Sat 12pm - 3pm & 5pm - 8pm £



Weekend

Saturday 31st: 💥

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 9am-11am (£5 ticket only includes entry into Easter egg hunt) Easter Egg Hunt 11am-12pm



146 Walsall Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall WS9 9AJ 01543 360703 ${f f}$ Follow us on Facebook@horseandjockey in Walsall Wood

Q.U.B.E. 2 is top of the blocks puzzler

You don't have to be familia with the original to enjoy Q.U.B.E 2, Toxic Games' immersive first person puzzle trek through a futuristic maze of monolith blocks. As Sutcliffe vou move blocks protagonist with only a colleague on a communicator for help. Exploring and manipulating the environment poses challenges. There is a growing ense of unease. This addictive game is available or Xbox One. Playstation 4 and PC.

Magic night ahead for indie rock fans

GIG highlights include tonight's (Thursday's) sold out show by The Magic Gang at Birmingham's O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth. Check out their slacker pop anthems on their just released debut album. Also tonight, singer, songwriter and frontman of rock band Idlewild, Roddy Woomble, has a gig at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath. He won acclaim for latest solo album The Deluder and will also be playing some Idlewild songs. Support from Tom Joshua. The Wombats will be playing tracks from fourth album Beautiful People Will Ruin Your Life at the 02 Institute tomorrow night, whilst rising star singer-songwriter Tom Walker plays the venue's other room. Claire Hastings, BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, is with Aidan Moodie at Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Saturday



Free Saturday Valuation Day For Jewellery, Watches, Silver, Antiques & Collectables

24 March 10am - 2pm

at St John's Parish Church, High Street, Walsall Wood WS9 9LP

Refreshments available - all welcome

Free Home Visits For Large/Multiple Items & Estate Clearance Probate & Insurance Valuations





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Picasso's Last Stand (BBC2, 9pm)

Documentary telling the story of the last decade of the great artist's life, through the memories of family close friends and the people he allowed into his world in the 1960s. As his health declined in these final years, Picasso faced damaging criticism of his work for the first time, and intimate details about his bohemian lifestyle were revealed. Yet, in the midst of disaster, he rediscovered his revolutionary spirit with a creative surge that produced some of his most sexually frank

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Classic Mary Berry. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.30 BBC News; Weather. 12.45 Film: The Pirates! In an Weather 12.45 Film: The Pirates II nan Adventure with Scientists (2012) Animated comedy, with the voice of Hugh Grant 2.05 Gymnastics: World Cup Highlights. 3.50 The Boat Race. Live coverage of the men's and women's University Boat Races.

- Oniversity boat races.

 6.15 Doodlebugs. Sketch show in which inanimate objects share their thoughts on the world. With the voices of Kayvan Novak, Cardinal Burns, Morgana Robinson and Spencer Jones.
- 6 30 BBC News
- 6.45 Pointless Celebrities. A special Pointiess Celebrities. A special Grange Hill version of the quiz, featuring Todd Carty, Alison Bettles, Paula Ann Bland, Lee MacDonald, Erkan Mustafa, Michelle Gayle, Francesca Martinez and Stuart Organ.
- Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as mucl as they know about a given subject
- Casualty. The day of Robyn and Glen's wedding arrives, but the groom has a seizure while getting ready at the hotel. Rash treats a woman suffering from anxiety after the death of her fiance.
- Troy: Fall of a City. The Trojan royal family receive a message from the gods and embark on a daring raid with their newfound allies. Achilles is provoked into returning to battle Hector, while returning to battle Hector, while Helen's situation remains precarious. The sixth episode of bavid Farr's Ancient Greek historical drama based on the Trojan War and the love affair between Paris and Helen, starring Tom Weston-Jones, Louis Hunter, Jonas Armstrong, Bella Dayne, David Threlfall, Johnny Harris, David Gwasi, Lemogano Tsipa. David Gyasi, Lemogang Tsipa, Chloe Pirrie and Joseph Mawle.
- Chloe Pirrie and Joseph Mawle.

 10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

 10.30 Film: Guardians of the Galaxy. (2014) A band of escapees from a prison space station battles an allen warlord for possession of a powerful artefact. Sci-fi adventure, starring Chris Pratt.

 12 25 Weather for the Week Ahead
- 12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) 6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) 7.10 The Pets Factor. 7.30 The Dengineers. 8.00 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. 8.30 Beyond Bionic. 9.00 Robott Wars. (R) 10.00 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me. (R) 11.00 Famously Unfit for Sport Relief. (R) 12.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 1.30 Planet Earth. (R) 2.30 Me and My Dog. The Ultimate Contest. (R) 3.30 The Repair Shop. (R) 4.00 The Secret Helpers. (R) 5.00 Big dats About the House. (R)

- 6.00 Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall celebrates volunteers who help wildlife in the West Country, meeting a woman who has transformed her home into a hedgehog hospital. Last in the series.
- Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby, Giles Coren and Monica
 Galetti work in Ireland's Ashford
 Castle, dating back to 1228.
 Despite its rollercoaster ride
 through the ages Ashford has
 sustained strong community ties.
 (R)
- (H)

 8.00 David Attenborough's Natural

 Curiosities. The evolutionary
 documentary concludes, as David
 Attenborough profiles the Stamese
 fighting fish and the kangaroo,
 which has a kirk to strong it can which has a kick so strong it can kill. Last in the series.
- 8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but mistakenly attacks a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. Guest starring Fulton Mackay. (R)
- 9.00 Picasso's Last Stand. Documentary telling the story of the last decade of the great artist's life, through the memories of family, close friends and the people he allowed into his world in
- 10.00 Film: A Late Quartet. (2012) A urini: A Late Quartet. (2012) A member of a string quartet announces his retirement, bringing up personal conflicts among the other musicians. Drama, with Christopher Walken and Philip Seymour Hoffman.
- and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

 11.40 Film: Safe Haven. (2013) A
 woman trying to make a fresh start
 in a coastal town realises she must
 confront the dark past she is
 running from. Romantic drama,
 with Julianne Hough.

 2.30 (BST) Civilisations. (R) 3.30 This Is
 BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.30 Super 4, (R) 7.05 Marvel8 Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: The Tom Revolution. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: The Spagel and Becky Show. (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) 9.25 TIV News. 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning. 11.20 Whos Doing the Dishes? (R) 12.20 ITV News; Weather. 12.30 Dancing on Ice — The Final. (R) 2.30 Ritain's Brightest Family. (R) 3.00 Celebrity Catchphrase. (R) 4.00 Tipping Point. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 ITV News: Weather.

- Regional Programme; Weather.
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a woman being attacked by a remote-controlled plane and a man hit by a gliant trampolline during a hurricane.
- 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
 Takeaway. Comedian Alan Carr
 joins the fun as this week's guest
 announcer, while the Geordie duo
 go up against cast members from
 Coronation Street in the return of
 Make 'Em Laugh, Plus, Stephen
 Mulhern hits the streets of
 Warrington in the latest edition of
 In for a Penny, a lucky audience
 member nets the chance to Win member gets the chance to Win the Ads, and Sofa Watch sees more Places on the Plane up for
- 8.30 The Voice UK. Emma Willis presents the second of the knockout shows as the remaining knockout shows as the remaining acts sing for a place in next week's semi-final. Coaches Willi.iam, Tom Jones, Olly Murs and reigning champion Jennifer Hudson can pick only one act from their teams to progress in the competition, so there are some tough decisions to make. Helping them are R*n B star Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas, Australian pop queen Kylie Minogue, 2006 winner of The Vactor Leona Lewis and The Voice UK's reigning champion, Mo Jamil.

10.30 ITV News: Weather. 10.45 Film: Fast & Furious 5. (2011) 2.00 (BST) Jackpot247. 3.00 Babushka. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Mobil 1: The Grid. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 10.30 The Simpso

6.30 Channel 4 News

- 7.00 Coastal Railways with Julie Walters. The actress travels around the UK coast by train beginning by boarding the famous Jacobite steam train for a trip Jacobite steam train for a trip along Scotland's West Highland Railway, famously featured in the Harry Potter movies. Along the way, Julie learns about herring gutting and blowing up railway lines, and meets a traditional Scotlish storyteller on the Isle of Skye. (R)
- 8.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge uncovers the story behind a dramatic night in 1976 when fishing trawler the Admiral Von Tromp went wildly off course in the North Sea, after setting off in Scarborough and running agrour in Whitby, North Yorkshire, with the wreckage still visible on the shores of Saltwick Bay to this day The massive remains of a First World War fort lead Tori to tales of love in the East Yorkshire hamlet of Kilnsea, and she learns the strange fate of two ships that were built in Hull but ended up on top of a mountain in Peru.
- 9.00 Film: Everest. (2015) Premiere wo expeditions set out to climb to the summit of the world's highest mountain. Both parties of mountain. Both parties of mountain. Both parties of mountaineers get caught in one of the fiercest snowstorms ever recorded, and face a desperate struggle to survive against the elements. Fact-based adventure, starring Jason Clarke, Joson Clarke, Joseph Clarke, Jos
- 11.20 Film: Predator 2. (1990) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton.
- 2.20 (BST) Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 3.10 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.15 Coast vs Country. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.30 Live Aiva Premiership Rugby Union. Saracens v Harfequins (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.15 Can't Pay? Well Take It Away. (Revin Stokes and Brain O'Shaughnessy chase a £16,000 debt run up by a coach company and Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a hearthreakin o house

SATURDAY'S TV MARCH 24

Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession. (R)

repossession. (R)

7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald.
Jane cruises around Cuba aboard
the Celestyal Crystal, starting and
ending in Havana, sampling the
relatively new tourist industry of
the Caribbean island. (R)

8.00 Inside Windsor Castle

Inside Windsor Castle.
Documentary marking the
centenary of the Windsor dynasty
by examining the history of the
royal residence over the past 80
years, looking at the tragedies and
triumphs that have had an impact
on the Queen and her family. The
first edition reflects on the events
of the past 25 years, including the
fire in November 1992 that started
in the private chapel and came at
the end of a terrible year for the
royals, with marital troubles hitting
the Queen's three elder children. the Queen's three elder children.

9.00 King Tut's Treasure Secrets. New series. Documentary exploring the thousands of items found with the great Egyptian pharaoh when his tomb was first uncovered.

tomb was first uncovered.

9.55 King Tut's Tomb: The Hidden
Chamber. Documentary
examining recent discoveries
made in the famous burial
chamber, which archaeologists
now believe may also be the
resting place of Queen Nefertiti.
(R)

10.50 Secrets of the Valley of the Kings. An exploration of the Valley of the Kings, the royal necropolis of the pharaohs and the world's most famous royal burial ground. (R)

11.40 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: (BST) Due Date. (2010) 4.45 House Doctor. (R) 5.10 Great Artists. (R)

BBC FOUR

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America

8.00 The Silk Road 9.00 Below the
Surface 10.30 Top of the Pops: 1985

11.30 Blues at the BBC 12.30 Ballrooms
and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC 2.30

(BST) Lost Kingdoms of Central America

3.30 The Silk Road 4.30 Secret
Knowledge: Hidden Jewels of the
Cheapside Hoard 5.00 Close

ITV2

11.20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway 12.50 You've Been Framed!
Funniest 100 1.55 Film: Spy Kids 3.00
Film: Spy Kids 3.01
Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon
Emperor (2008) 6.45 FYI Daily 4.05
Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon
Emperor (2008) 6.45 FYI Daily 6.05
Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon
Emperor (2008) 7.50 Film: The Amazing
Spider-Man (2012) 8.55 FYI Daily 9.00
Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)
10.30 Celebrity Julice 11.35 Family Guy
12.35 American Dad! 2.05 (BST)
American Dad! 2.30 Action Team

12.30 Agatha Christie's Marple 2.40 Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982) 5.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 2.55 (BST) ITV3 Nightscreen

11.25 Monster Carp 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster. 4.00 Film: Bill & Live Trom Doncaster 4.40 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 5.05 FYI Daily 5.10 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 5.45 Storage Wars 6.45 Live Snooker: Players Championship, 11.00 Film: Windtalkers (2002) 12.10 FYI Daily 12.15 Film: Windtalkers (2002) 2.45 (BST) ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Film: Dragonball Evolution (2009)
2.05 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 2.30 The
Goldbergs 3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.30
Young Sheldon 4.00 The Great Celebrity
Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer 5.15
Extreme Cake Makers 6.00 The Big Bang
Theory 9.00 Film: 2 Guns (2013) 11.05
Gogglebox 12.10 Five Star Hotel 2.15
(BST) Five Star Hotel 3.20 The
Inbetweeners 3.45 How I Met Your
Mother

11.00 Anastasia (1997) 1.00 Flight of the 11.00 Ariasiasia (1997) 1.00 Fingint of the Navigator (1986) 2.50 The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) 4.40 Carry On Cabby (1963) 6.35 Mrs Doubtfire (1993) 9.00 American Ultra (2015) 10.50 Zombieland (2009) 12.30 Nymphomaniac: Volume II (2013) 4.00 (BST) Close



wan and Colin McGregor

RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin McGregor (BBC1, 8.30pm)

The actor and his former pilot brother present a celebration of the Royal Air Force's centenary, taking to the skies in iconic planes from the First World War to the present day. They also meet service personnel from throughout the RAF's history, including a veteran of the Battle of Britain, former female members of the Air Transport Auxiliary, crew members who had the responsibility of dropping the atom bomb, modern-day Typhoon fighter crews, and the last pilot to be involved in a dogfight.

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 BBC News, Weather. 12.30 MasterChef. (R) 1.30 MasterChef. (R) 2.30 MasterChef. (R) 3.00 Money for Nothing. (R) 4.00 Regional Programme. 4.30 Songs of Praise. 5.05 Sport Relief 2018: The Best Bits.

6 05 BBC News

6.20 Regional Programme

6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker reports on a conservation project in Shropshire to prevent the county's rivers being polluted by iron ore's brought to the surface by the area's long history of mining. Ellie Harrison visits a pop-up restaurant using only locally sourced ingredients and goes searching for pine martens, Steve Brown meets a glass sculptor, and Tom Heap reports on declining numbers of British hedgehogs.

Hold the Sunset. Phil fears he will lose Edith to Bob, and that a face from his past may make an unwelcome reappearance. Last in the series. Shropshire to prevent the county's

MasterChef. John Torode and Gregg Wallace present the first of two programmes in which eight of the 16 cooks to make it through the heats must prepare one of their favourite dishes.

their favourite dishes.

RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin
McGregor. The actor and his
former pilot brother present a
celebration of the Royal Air Force's
centenary, taking to the skies in
iconic planes from the First World
War to the present day. They also
meet service personnel from
throughout the RAF's history,
including a veteran of the Battle of
Britain, former female members of
the Air Transport Auxiliary, crew the Air Transport Auxiliary, crew members who had the members who had the responsibility of dropping the atom bomb, modern-day Typhoon fighter crews, and the last pilot to be involved in a dogfight.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Film: War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise.

12.15 The Women's Football Show.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.55 BBC News.

6.20 Coast. (R) 7.20 The Instant
Gardener. (R) 8.36 Gardeners World.
(R) 8.35 Countryfile. (R) 9.35 Saturday
Kitchen Best Bits. 1.05 Spring Kitchen
with Tom Kerridge. (R) 11.50 Spring Kitchen
with Tom Kerridge. (R) 11.50 Spring Kitchen
with Tom Kerridge. (R) 11.50 Lorraine
Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R)
12.20 Homes Under the Hammer. (R)
12.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R)
19.10 Film: Binging Up Baby. (1938)
Screwball comedy, starring Katharine
Hepburn and Cary Grant. 3.00
Highingaer. The Road to Santiago. (R)
4.00 The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives.
(R) 5.00 Film: Real Steel. (2011) Scidrama, starring Hugh Jackman.
7.00 Down the Mighty River with Steve
Backshall. The naturalist travels
down the Ballem River in New
Guinea from its source to the sea,
hoping to encounter the ancient
tribes and dangerous wildlife that
live long its banks and in the
surrounding jungle. He begins his
journey inland at Lake Habbema,
and braves some of the world's
fiercest white water rapids. Along
the way, he stays in a village
belonging to the Dani tribe and
ventures into some previously
unexplored caves. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc test drives
the Ferrar 812 Superfast, while

8 00 Ton Gear Matt LeBlanc test drives the Ferrari 812 Superfast, while Rory Reid travels to the US in search of a muscle car that is illegal in Europe. With guest Vicky McClure (Line of Duty).

9.00 Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives. The presenter meets families and friends of people who died in the Grenfell fire, to gain an understanding of the disaster's victims as people and as members of a community.

on a community.

10.00 Mock the Week. James Acaster,
Angela Barnes, Kerry Godliman,
Nish Kumar and Glenn Moore join
host Dara O Briain and regular
Hugh Dennis for the topical
comedy show. (R)

10.30 Top Gear: Extra Gear. Chris Harris

10.30 Top Gear: Extra Gear. Chris Harris takes the new Porsche GT3 for a spin on the track, while motoring journalist Alex Kersten and racing engineer Mark Wynne chat about the future of the V12 engine.
10.55 Film: Life of Crime. (2013) Two criminals kidnap the wife of a corrupt real-estate tycoon, only to discover he is not willing to pay their ransom demand. Comedy, with Jennifer Aniston.
12.30 Sin 20ne: Question Time. (R)

12.30 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)
1.30 Holby City. (R) 2.30 This Is BBC
Two

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan-Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Super 4. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share as Story. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share as Story. (R) 7.05 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: The Tomand Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: The Tomand Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Gol. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Mem: Titas Gol. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Mem: Titas Gol. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Mrs. Titas Gol. (R) 8.10 S Teen Titans Go! (R) 8. 10 Scrambled!: M Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Spy School; 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishtart. (R) 9.25 Scrambled!: Wishtart. (R) 9.25 Sunday: 11.00 The Vicie UK, (R) 12.50 Junday: 11.00 The Vicie UK, (R) 12.50 JV News; Weather. 1.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) 2.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 3.00 Tenable. (R) 4.00 Tipping Point. (R) 5.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) 6.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 HV News, weather.
7.00 Celebrity Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity edition of the game show, asking contestants Jonathan Ross, Tess contestants Jonathan Ross, Tess Daly and Linda Robson to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000 for the charity of their choice.

8.00 The Durrells. Louisa and Larry receive the devastating news that receive the devastating news that Aunt Hermione has died in her sleep. As the family make arrangements to have her body sent back to England, Margo gets to work on organising a memorial service. Leslie decides that he wants to be with Dionisia, and prepares to let Daphne dout hat she is pregnant with his child, and her father is determined that they must get married as soon as possible. Gerry becomes fascinated by a wall in the back garden that is covered in insects.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Lydia tries to regain the trust of a forme patient.

10.00 ITV News; Weather

10.20 Peston on Sunday. (R) 11.20 Film: Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

1.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Marcella. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) 6.35
Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.00
Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.00
Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.20
Frasier. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Race
of Champions 2018. 9.30 Sunday
Brunch. 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday
Night Feast. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons. (R)
2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 Formula 1
Australian Grand Prix Highlights. 5.15
The Great Clebrity Bake Off for Stand Up
to Cancer. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.

6 30 Channel 4 News

Channel 4 News.
Homes by the Med. Charlie
Luxton explores Croatia's
Dalmatian coast and islands, and
visits a gleaming white property
that cascades down the side of a
cliff on the island of Brac.
Previously shown on More4.

8.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick celebrates his birthday with a hot air balloon ride over the chateau at sunrise, before setting to work in sunrise, before setting to work in the kitchen making his own jam and alcohol from the vast quantities of fresh fruit waiting to be harvested in the garden. Angel starts work on a new project of her own – building a geodesic dome on top of a floating platform.

9.00 Homeland. Saul calls an old friend while Wellington has a

friend, while Wellington has a problem and Carrie enjoys a win. Starring Claire Danes.

10.15 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr returns with the comedy version of the words-and-

Jimmy Carr returns with the comedy version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with Jon Richardson and James Acaster teaming up against Lee Mack and Sarah Milician. (R)

11.10 Film: Rush. (2013) Formula One racers James Hunt and Niki Lauda develop a fierce rivalry over the course of the 1976 championship. Fact-based drama, with Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl.

1.25 The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. Last in the series. (R) 2.20 The Question Jury. Tension mounts and loyalties are put to the test as two of the jurors go head to head in a battle to win the money. (R) 3.75 KOTV Boxing Weekly. Action from bouts around the world. 3.45 Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) 4.40 Coast vs Country. Sara Damergi and Kerr Drummond help Tony and Michelle, who have lived in Oxfordshire for 10 years and are keen to sample a more relaxed pace of life in Dorset. (R) 5.35 and are keen to sample a more relaxed pace of life in Dorset. (R) **5.35** Streetmate. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Little Princess. 6.10 Wilssper. (R) 6.20 Milkshakel Monkey. (R) 6.25 The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) 6.30 Moly. (R) 6.35 Simon. (R) 6.40 Simon. (R) 6.40 Simon. (R) 6.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.50 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.05 Thomas & Friends. (R) 7.15 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.25 Oilly the Little White Van. (R) 7.35 Blaze and the Monster Machines. 7.55 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.15 Nella the Princess Knight. (R) 8.30 Den and Holly Sittle Kingdom. (R) 9.10 Simmer and Shine. (R) 9.15 Digby Dragon. (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.50 Cats Make Vou Laugh Ott Loud 4. (R) 11.20 Police Interceptors: Dog Squad Special. (R) 12.20 Film: The Illusionist. (2006) Mystery thriller starring Edward Morton. 22 Film: The Man in the Iron Mask 12.20 Film: The Illusionist. (2006)
Mystery thriller, starring Edward Norton.
2.25 Film: The Man in the Iron Mask.
(1998) Swashbuckling adventure.
starring Leonardo DiCaprio. 4.45 Film: A
Knight's Tale. (2001) Medieval comedy
adventure, starring Heath Ledger. 5.45 5
News Update. 5.50 Film: A Knight's Tale.
(2001) Concluded.

(2001) Concluded.
7.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.
The agents try to recover more than £12,000 owed by a jeweller to one of his suppliers, and chase up more than £5,000 owed by a tenant to her former landlord for rent arrears. (R)

rent arrears. (H)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.
Agents chase more than £1,700 in
unpaid parking fines in south-east
London, but struggle to pinpoint
the debtor. Meanwhile, officers in
north Wales try to recover the
£2,000 owed by a tradesman to a responsible to the control of the co

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: The Bodyguard. (1992) A famous singer subjected to death threats by an obsessive fan is persuaded to hire a former secret service agent as her bodyguard, but neither of them realise the effect they are about to have on each other's lives. Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Costner.

10.005 News Update. 10.05 Film: The Bodyguard. (1992) Concluded

11.35 Film: Whitney Houston: A Tragic Love. (2015)

1.20 Whitney Houston: Her Greatest Hits. (R) 2.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four 7.00 Only Connect 7.30 University Challenge 8.00 Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth 9.00 Capability Brown's Unifinished Garden 10.00 The Banker's Guide to Art 11.30 The Secret Life of Children's Books 12.00 The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge 1.00 Moominiand Tales: The Life of Tove Jansson 2.00 Capability Brown's Unifinished Garden 3.00 And Then There Were None 4.00 Close 1TV2

1TV2

12.10 You've Been Framed!: Top 100
Animals 1.10 The Voice UK 3.05 Britain's Got Talent: Stephen's Unsung Heroes
4.10 Flim: Hotel Transylvania (2 (2015) 5.10 Flim: Hotel
Transylvania (2 (2015) 5.55 Flim: Happy
Feet Two (2011) 6.55 Flim: Happy
Feet Two (2011) 6.55 Flim: Happy
Feet Two (2011) 6.05 Flim: Skyfall (2012) 9.00 Flim: Skyfall (2012) 10.50 Family Guy 12.20
American Dadl 1.15 Ibiza Weekender
2.20 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2
Nightscreen

ITV3

11.55 A Touch of Frost 1.55 Film: Brief Encounter (1945) 3.40 Film: The Theory of Everything (2014) 6.00 Vera 8.00 The Cruise 9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure 10.00 Murder on the Home Front 12.05 Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982) 2.25 Blue Murder 3.40 Rising Damp 4.05 Road to Avonlea 5.45 ITVS Mightscreen

ITV4

12.45 Live Snooker: Players
Championship. The opening session of
the final from Venue Cymru, Llandudno.
5.15 Storage Wars 6.45 Live Snooker:
Players Championship. 11.15 Film:
Senna (2010) 12.15 FYI Daily 12.20
Film: Senna (2010) 1.25 it's Not Rocket
Science 2.30 Fishing Allstars 3.00
Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs 1.30 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 The Goldbergs 5.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.00 Young Sheldon 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 6.55 Film: Fantastic Four (2005) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 The Inbetweeners 11.10 The Big Bang Theory 12.05 Five Star Hotel 3.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.05 Hollyoaks Film4

TIMM 11.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007) 1.00 Ever After. A Cinderella Story (1988) 3.35 Hugo (2011) 6.05 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) 9.00 Oblivion (2013) 11.25 Child 44 (2015) 2.05 Submarine (2010) 4.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

Kidnapped: Desperate Hours, Channel 5, 3.15pm An American wife's world is turned upside down her husband, the son of a Mexican newspaper publisher, is kidnapped. Drama, starring Teri Polo, Esai Morales and Nicholas Gonzalez. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2011)

TUESDAY

Mr & Mrs Smith, Channel 5, 10pm
An outwardly bored suburban couple lead double lives as professional assassins, both unaware of their partner's secret. When they are hired to kill each other, the deadly situation puts some much-needed excitement back into their stale relationship. Comedy adventure, starring Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn and Adam Brody. (2005)

WEDNESDAY

Under Siege, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear veapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey and Tommy Lee Jones. (1992)



THURSDAY

Buried Secrets, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Former cop Sarah Winters publishes her first novel, and finds herself on the wrong side of the law when her book's plot seems to mirror an all-too-real murder case. Thriller, starring Sarah Carter. (2014)

FRIDAY

Fast & Furious 7, ITV, 9pm

Premiere. After defeating Owen Shaw and his crew and securing amnesty for their past crimes, Dom, Brian and the rest of the team return home to live normal lives again. However Shaw's older brother Deckard - a rogue special forces assassin vows revenge on Dom, who he holds responsible for leaving Owen in a coma. Action thriller seguel. starring Vin Diesel, Jason Statham and Paul Walker in his last film role. (2015)

Famous faces show their naked ambition for a good cause

t takes some cojones to back a film, no matter how good the script is. In 1996, the idea of unemployed Sheffield blokes stripping on stage sounded like a bad idea for a TV one-off, let alone a big screen comedy.

But great films are never born without risk, and by the time it saw the light of day a year later, The Full Monty went from indie curio to major blockbuster.

While other Brit flicks of 1997, like Lawn Dogs and Face, vanished with the skill of a stealth fighter, The Full Monty became a

The VHS copies (and later DVDs) sold out in no time; worthy yet jobbing actors like Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy and Robert Carlyle were wooed by Hollywood, and aside from Anne Dudley landing an Oscar for her inspired score, the film was turned into a successful stage show.

Last summer, the brand was also adapted for a hit ITV spectacular in which famous faces stripped off to raise awareness of men's cancers.

Now it's back for a new full-frontal extravaganza, and this time it's live from Sheffield, the home of the original movie.

Ashley Banjo and Alexander Armstrong will be putting together a bigger and bolder show, and they are joined by TV presenter Jeff Brazier; former Rugby International star Ugo Monye and TOWIE veteran James Argent.

And there's a load more talent joining them, from the Wanted's Tom Parker, ex-footballer John Hartson, and chef Ainsley Harriot to former EastEnder John Partridge.

They will share their personal stories and learn how to shed their iconic security guard uniforms to stir up a storm on stage in the Steel City. Hopefully they will also inspire more men to make vital checks that could save lives.

"Last year's show was a major success, particularly given it was unknown territory," explains Alexander. "But now we want to see if we can aim for an even better performance to grab people's

attention again for this cause

"Hopefully, we're in for even more fun as we take another bunch of blokes and turn them into show stoppers capable of turning the audience into a frenzy."

Ashley adds: "After the amazing time we had last year, I can't wait to get the chance to teach the 2018 intake how to forget their inhibitions and put on an unforgettable show to raise awareness for this incredibly important issue that really can save lives."

A day after this show airs, some familiar faces will be popping up in another ITV special, The Real Full Monty: Ladies' Night.

Presenters Coleen Nolan and Sarah-Jane Crawford, and actresses Helen Lederer and Ruth Madoc are determined to show the boys how it's done and raise awareness of breast cancer.

They are joined by broadcaster Victoria Derbyshire; Emmerdale's Sally Dexter; reality star Megan McKenna and former Liberty X singer Michelle Heaton.





The Real Full Monty: Live, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

MONDAY

Thrifty Ways to - Summer Holiday

Channel 4, 8.30pm Katie Piper presents a programme giving view hot tips on how to shop better for a fraction of the usual price, offering the inside track on ways to get more bang for your buck. She is joined by travel industry expert Amar Latif to demonstrate how to be thrifty about booking a summer holiday - be it family time in Tenerife or a city break in Bath or tips, as well as tricks on how to get cut prices in Orlando. The show offers handy money saving hacks and taps into local knowledge to access the best deals

TUESDAY

Live International Football

ITV. 7.30pm

England v Italy (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch is joined by Lee Dixon, Ian Wright and Slaven Bilic to present coverage of the friendly match from Wembley Stadium, as England continue their preparations for the 2018 World Cup. With the tournament in Russia only a few months away, Gareth Southgate will see this encounter as an ideal opportunity to assess some of the members in his squad, and potentially play one or two players who have previously been on the fringe of contention, but looking to force their way into his plans.

Come Home BBC1, 9pm

Award-winning screenwriter Danny Brocklehust is one of the brains behind this three-part family drama. Set in Northern Ireland, it focuses on mother Marie (Paula Malcomson), who decides to walk out on husband Greg (Christopher Eccleston), and their three children. The first episode is told from Greg's perspective and follows him and their kids as they struggle to comprehend their mother actions. While Greg juggles work at Farrell Motors, raising his children and coping with the trials and tribulations of dating 2001 100h again, he tries to keep a sense of normality. However, it remains to be seen whether he will be able to move on when he's trapped in the past. With the aid of multiple timeframes, viewpoints and flashbacks Greg and Marie's story should be THE talking point for many around the UK.

WEDNESDAY

The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story BBC2, 9pm
The fact-based US crime drama

continues. Andrew Cunanan

invites himself to stay in Minneapolis with friends David Madson and Jeff Trail. Although Jeff has

managed to build a new life for himself in the city, he is still troubled by the ending of his US Navy career back in 1995. Meanwhile, Gianni Versace opens up about his relationship with his partner Antonio to a magazine, against the advice of Donatella. Starring Darren Criss, Cody Fern, Finn Wittrock, Edgar Ramirez, Ricky Martin

and Penelope Cruz.

Come Home, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY The Real Full Monty: Ladies' Night ITV. 9pm

Following the success of last year's The Real Full Monty – and last night's follow up - it's the turn of a group of female celebrities to bare all in the name of cancer awarene However, they won't just

be looking to the men and the hit film The Full Monty for inspiration, as the programme also marks 20 years since the ecalendar girls' of the

photos. The ladies taking part are TV pres Coleen Nolan, broadcaster Victoria Derbyshire Emmerdale actress Sally Dexter, reality TV star Megan McKenna, former Liberty X singer Michelle Heaton, actress Helen Lederer, TV legend Ruth Madoc and presenter Sarah-Jane Crawford, and the issue of breast cancer awareness is close to all their hearts. But will that be enough to get them over their body issues and inhibitions as they prepare to put on a show?

Bylstone and District WI posed for their iconic nud-

FRIDAY

Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tonv Robinson

Channel 5, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

New series. The actor visits York Minster, which over the past 800 years, has been a backdrop to some of the most dramatic events in British history. It houses more than half of all the world's medieval glass, including the Rose Window, commissioned by Henry VIII, and the East Window, the largest stained glass window in the world. A succession of outspoken bishops of York have defied Nazis, married kings and queens, and more recently championed equality with Archbishop John Sentamu, the country's first black bishop, consecrating the world's first female bishop, Libby Lane, in 2014.



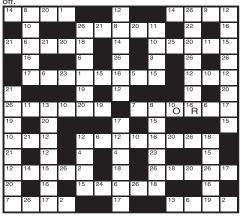
THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY

Express & Star Final whistle

The Chronicle

Thursday, March 22,

, 2018



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

¹F	² H	³ G	⁴ D	⁵ N	⁶ X	⁷ R	Ů	⁹ М	10 K	11C	W	¹³ P
¹⁴ J	15 S	16	¹⁷ Q	¹⁸ O	¹⁹	20 E	²¹	22 A	²³	24 L	25 B	²⁶
	_											

15

16 **R**

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

10 **O**

12

13 26 Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Double Crossword

Cryptic Clues: Across

- 1. Unsavoury
- scoundrel (3.3) 4. This singer, given a chance, could win
- a fortune (6) 9. A job done for
- nothing? (9,4) 10. Listens out for recruits (7)
- 11. Superstitious symbol of many following a gambling system
- 12. Am given little scope (5)
- 14. Bird doctor goes round to object (5)
- 18. Shape altered a
- great deal (5) 19. A bone from
- Munster (7) 21. Having the wisdom not to get excited (13)
- 22. What water pipes should be kept behind? (6)
- 23. Credit is twice provided in an emergency (6)

Down

- 1. Strike for which the catering staff is responsible (6)
- 2. Ambiguous combination of nobleman and
- guide (6,7)
 3. Entrances groups of spectators (5)
 5. It may be worn as a
- favour (7) 6. What a metalworker
- may say when they go wrong? (5,8)
 7. I smoke a strange
- mixture, being a northerner (6) 8. A case in point?
- Finish with just the opposite (5)
- 13. Waiting to be stocked (2,5)
- 15. The Spanish man comes first in church (6)
- 16. Legally prevent poets being translated (5)
- 17. Yet they may form a large part of the weekly wash (6)
- 20. Three mixed the upper air (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Far off (6) 4. Self-possession (6)
- 9. Unselfish (13)
- 10. Disease (7)
- 11. Scorch (5)
- 12. Pungent (5) 14. Viner (5)
- 18. Cordage (5)
- 19. Plant (7)
- 21. On sale, cheaply (5,3,1,4)
- 22. Signify (6)
- 23. Pure (6)

Down

- 1. Diminish (6)
- 2. Mistaken idea (13)
- 3. Taut (5)
- 5. Delighted (7)
- 6. In impatient suspense (2,11)
- 7. Pester (6)
- 8. Postpone (5) 13. Visible (2.5)
- 15. Cold (6)
- 16. Pitch (5) 17. Shoe (6)
- **20.** Confound (5)

Sudoku

		2			8		5	
	9		2	6		3		
		6			5	7		
7	4				2	8		
3			4		1			5
		5	6				4	1
		8	3			5		
9		7			6		3	2
	2			5				

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains

LACT WELLTO										
SOLUTIONS >										
8	6	3	2	1	4	7	9	5		
1	2	4	5	9	7	6	3	8		
9	7	5	6	8	3	4	2	1		
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4	2		
6	8	7	3	4	2	1	5	9		
2	4	9	1	5	8	3	6	7		
4	5	8	7	3	9	2	1	6		
7	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	3		
3	9	6	8	2	1	5	7	4		

I AST WEEK'S

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: I Health resort; 7 Staff;
8 Acute; 9 Aid; 10 Distended; 11 Panama;
12 Dangle; 15 Recondite; 17 Yes; 18 Noise;
19 Timed; 21 Consolidates. Down: 1 Heir apparent; 2 Tea; 3 Refuse; 4 Stalemate; 5 Round;
6 Heedlessness; 7 Sedan; 10 Domineers;
13 Guyed; 14 Pistol; 16 Cairo; 20 Mad.
OUICK - Across: 1 San Francisco; 7 After;
8 Train; 9 Tie; 10 Fragrance; 11 Nudist;
12 Reform; 15 Sepulchre; 17 Inn; 18 Arena;
19 Ocean; 21 Here and there. Down: 1 Shooting
star; 2 Rot; 3 Normal; 4 Intervene; 5 Chain;
6 Interminable; 7 Ahead; 10 Fusillade; 13 Orion;
14 Thrown; 16 Piece; 20 Eat.

Quiz

- Whose novel Brideshead Revisited was published in 1945? On which Hebridean island is Fingal's
- Which A-Team star died in 1994? Which British coin was discontinued in
- Which ceremonial office is held by the Lordship of Scrivelsby, Lincolnshire?
- 6. Who wrote the classic jazz number Round Midnight?
- What is the capital of Croatia?
- Who made his US film debut as Christ in The Greatest Story Ever Told?
- Which Indian state's name is Sanskrit for 'five rivers'?
- 10. Who is the host of University Challenge?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 17; 2 La Paz; 3 Utah; 4 Woolsack;

5 Kigali; 6 Opium; 7 Sir Christopher Wren;

8 Volga; 9 Vulcan; 10 Yukon.

Niner: SLOUCHING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

239211 gives a British city, 272486

gives a British town, gives a second British town.

Star Reader Trave

Chess

For the first time in 30 years, Chess will see a big revival in London with a star studded cast including Michael Ball and Alexandra Burke, for a limited time only. This symbolic production tells a story of love and political intrigue, set against the background of the Cold War in the late 1970s/early 1980s

This epic musical love story features music by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (former ABBA stars and songwriters) and lyrics by Tim Rice (famed for Jesus Christ Superstar, The Lion

London Theatre Break

2 Days By Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 12 May

from Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night dinner, bed and breakfast at our selected hotel in the Heathrow area
- ✓ Chess theatre ticket Upper Circle (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London







Strictly Ballroom

This passionate production is based on Baz Luhrmann's iconic film Strictly Ballroom. Set in Australia, this musical tells the story of championship ballroom dancer Scott as he decides to break the rules teaming up with his uncoordinated partner Fran and developing his own choreography in the aim of winning a prestigious dance competition.

Enjoy classic songs like Love is in the Air, Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps and Time After Time alongside a variety of catchy new numbers and sensationally choreographed routines that are

London Theatre Break

2 Days By Coach - Matinee

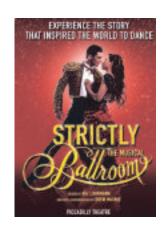
Departing Saturday 12 May

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- ✓ Strictly Ballroom ticket Grand Circle (matinee performance)
- Free time in London

2 Days By Coach



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Call or visit us online for even more top London shows and available dates

Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress; no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dibl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

Ticket

No Lye-ing, this was perfect night out

WE have a wonderful afternoon and evening. We had to – because it was by order of the Peaky Blinders!

Having booked an evening meal at the Windsor Castle Inn in Lye we thought we'd try somewhere already renowned for its good food. And, perhaps just as importantly, a place that brewed its own awardwinning beer on site and had a gin emporium.

The Saturday just happened to clash with one of Sadler's now famous Peaky Blinders-themed days and we were lucky to have stumbled across it. The only Peaky-style clothing I own is a Christmas T-shirt, which my wife, Kelly, banned me from wearing (it was approaching spring after all) so we went as we were.

QUAINT

However, many had made the effort and it really was a set back in time when we enjoyed a few meal drinks in Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, just behind Lye Railway Station, with live music and draft real ales.

We then made our way to the Windsor Castle Inn, a five-minute walk, for our meal. The Windsor is a nice, quaint pub that always serves at least 10 of its own real ales

The brewery started in 1900, founded by Nathaniel Sadler, the great, great grandfather to Emily and Chris Sadler. It supplied its 12-tied public houses, the most famous being The Windsor Castle, the original brewery tap house. first based in Oldbury.

tap house, first based in Oldbury.

Now in Lye, near Stourbridge, the brewery has once again become a thriving family-run microbrewery, owned by Chris Sadler, supplying public houses and supermarkets with Sadler's cask and bottled ales throughout the Midlands and country. And there were plenty of groups enjoying brewery tours too – so if anyone fancies soaking up some of the pub's rich





history something like that would be worth a punt. The 1920-inspired Dr Hardwicke's Gin Emporium, which opened in the summer, also boasts more than 35 spirits.

There was a little drama when we arrived as there had been a mix-up with our booking – and we didn't exist according to their records. But after producing the email apologies were made and they found us a table for two. We were even offered a free round of drinks.

As it was Peaky-themed night the pub was busy, so if you're thinking of a romantic or quiet evening for two, it's perhaps best to avoid such an evening. However, we

loved the atmosphere and were treated superbly by the staff, who have also won awards for their service.

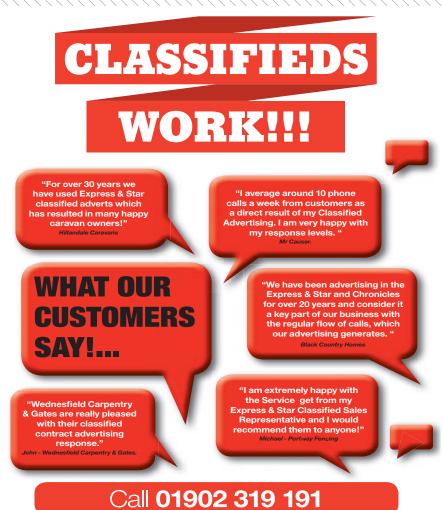
So it was finally time to order some starters and I have to say we guessed right when we decided to share one because it was more than ample. We opted for the crab and scallop thermidor, which came with mixed leaves and homemade bread. Each homemade meal comes with a recommendation of the perfect pint of craft beer to accompany the food. For me, fish is always the number one option and luckily the Windsor Castle Inn has its fish delivered fresh from the markets every

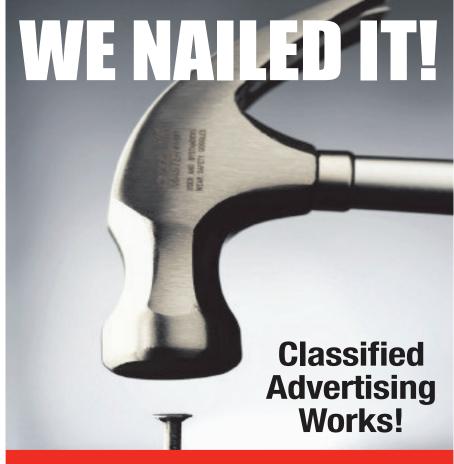
morning. The loin of cod, served with a seafood ragout, seasonal vegetables and a choice of dauphinoise or hand-cut chips stole the show.

Kelly went for the pork medley, a trio of braised pork belly, pork and leek sausage, and grilled pork chop on a bed of creamy mashed potato served with black pudding, cider jus and seasonal vegetables. 'Amazing' was how she described it.

So if you enjoy real ales, a selection of gins and some lovely homemade food, it's worth giving The Windsor Castle Inn a try.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Immaculate and improved modern detached home

An immaculately maintained and much improved modern detached family home, 1 Werneth Grove. Turnberry, Bloxwich, Walsall, is for sale through Marrion & Co Estate Agents at £350,000.

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, it has attractive views across the adjoining Sir Isaac Newton Pool/woodland

The gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation briefly comprises a canopy porch, entrance hall/stairs, spacious lounge, open plan kitchen/dining room, utility room, guests cloaks/wc, study room, four excellent bedrooms, the master having an en-suite shower room/WC, family bathroom/WC, external store and gymnasium, two-block paved driveways and lawned gardens.

This property is thought to date from the mid 1990s, having been constructed to good quality speculative standards of its day by volume builders J.S. Bloor

More recently, the property has undergone complete modernisation and refurbishment, to include replacement double glazing, and re-fitted kitchen. bathroom and en-suite shower room.

The property occupies an idyllic corner location having attractive views across the adjoining Sir Isaac Newton Pool and surrounding woodland area.

The location on the periphery of this ever-popular Turnberry Estate allows convenient access to local shopping facilities including frequent and regular public transport services and schools catering for children of all age groups.

Nearby motorway junctions also afford convenient commuting to Birmingham city centre and access to the wider West Midland conurbation.

The Walsall borough also offers the choice of many sporting, social and recreational facilities including Bloxwich Golf Course and King George V Memorial Playing Fields

Selling your home can be stressful so it is important to choose an agent you can trust who will make this process as smooth as possible. At Marrion & Co aim they aim to eliminate the stress and make the experience as easy as possible.

TURNBERRY **£350,000**



KEY FEATURES

Modern detached family home

4 excellent bedrooms

Quiet cul-de-sac

Immaculately maintained

Great views to the front







K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 28TH MARCH 2018



90 BURLAND AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Within a popular location, spacious semi, Two reception, kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms, bathroom, garaging facility, off-road parking, rear garden. EPC: E42

Guide: £90,000 / £95,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th MARCH @ 10.30 a.m



BUILDING PLOT 93 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOVERHAMPTON.

Large plot with Planning Permission for erection of a three bedroomed detached house, good location, generous plot depth.

Guide: £85,000 / £95,000



38 PENDEFORD AVENUE, CLAREGATE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Impressive detached ready for improvement, wide hall, two reception, large kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, two garages, store, long rear garden with return frontage approx. 180ft. to Aldersley Avenue EPC: E45

Guide: £155,000 / £165,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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PROPERTY



Auction for family residence set on generous plot

An impressive traditional-style three-bedroomed detached family residence, 41 Calthorpe Road, Walsall, is set on a generous plot.

It is for sale via Skitts Estate Agents through the modern method of auction, with a guide price £300,000, to be held on Wednesday, March 28 at the Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton. Registration will be at 6pm with the auction starting at

Having gas central heating and majority double glazed windows, the WALSALL £300,000

selling agents say it has excellent potential to extend and enlarge, (subject to the relevant planning regulations).

Its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, an entrance hall with stairs off and an under-stairs storage cupboard with a window to the rear. Reception room one has a

feature fireplace with an electric fire. a window to the side and a further bay window to the front

Reception room two has a feature fireplace with a complementary electric fire, windows either side, a window to the front and patio doors to the rear garden.

The breakfast kitchen has a range of fitted wall and base cupboard units with roll edge work surfaces

Contact Skitts on 01922 478104.



AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

28TH MARCH 2018

Aston Villa Football Ground Starting at 10:30am

AUCTION

To include properties on behalf of: Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Housing Association











52 Lichfield Road, Walsall Well Appointed 5 Bed House Guide: £260,000+ (plus fees)



4 Himley Close, Willenhall 3 Bed Semi Detached House Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



20 The Rise. Great Barr 3 Bed Semi-Detached House Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



39 Hadley Road, Walsall 3 Bed End Terraced House Guide: £35,000+ (plus fees)



100 Borneo Street, Walsall 3 Bed Mid Terraced House Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



341 Birmingham Road, Great Barr 4 Bed Detached Bungalow which maybe Suitable for Development* **Guide: £170,000+ (plus fees)**



42 Westmore Way, Wednesbury 3 Red Detached House Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



22 The Precinct. Lucknow Road, Willenhall Long Leasehold 3 Bed Maisonette Guide: £35.000 (plus fees)



12 Regent Street, Willenhall 2 Bed Mid Terraced House Guide: £30,000+ (plus fees)



98 Blakenhall Lane, Walsall Residential Investment Property Current Gross Income: £23,700pa Guide: £128.000-£133.000 (plus fees)

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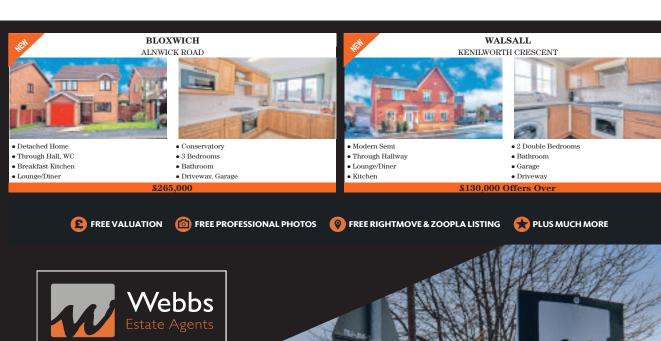
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- Shower Room
- Parking





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- Hallway, Lounge



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- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Downstairs W.C







- Lounge with Bay Window
- Front and Rear Garden

 EPC C (71)



 Lounge with Fren
 Fitted Kitchen
 Ground Floor WC Gas Central Heating
EPC - D (68)

- Two Bedroom Flat
 Ideal Buy-To-Let (450pcm)
 Cul-de-sac Location
 Close to Pleck Park
 Garage to Rear
 EPC F (30)













- Popular Mossley Area Modern Fitted Kitchen









ch Road, Walsall

- First Floor Bathroom
 Extended Fitted Kitchen Gas Central Heating
 Double Glazing
- Many Period Features
 Two Reception Rooms
 Easy Access to the M6 Motorway
 Viewing Essential
 EPC TBC



- Two Bedroom Bungalow
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A truly substantial, late Victorian

Burrowes Street Walsall



of the town centre this flat is just of the Walsall ring road which of slight modernisation throughout and would ideally be suited

•Guide Price £59,000 PLUS



Thetford Road



nicely presented three bedroom

semi-detached home situated in



Walsingham Street Walsall

•Guide Price £240,000 PLUS



he property is situated in a popula

sidential area within Chuckery and

ould make an ideal purchase for an





Farmstead Close Walsall



Set in a quiet cul-de-sac, this modern semi detached property offers an ideal opportunity for a first time buyer or investo who is prepared to put in a little work to tidy it up. With gas fired central heating, the property is conveniently located for all amenities and is set back from the road behind a lawned oregarden with long driveway.

•Guide Price £88,500 PLUS



Teddesley Street Walsall

●Guide Price £128,500 PLUS



•Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

Situated within walking distance of Walsall town centre this semi



Dalby Road Walsall



•Guide Price £85,000 PLUS



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●Guide Price £145,000 PLUS



Rosamund Street Walsall



Victorian end terraced offers ell planned and appointed living accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing. Internal viewing is

●Guide Price £85,000 PLUS



Cherry Tree Avenue Walsall



deep lawned foregarden, this traditionally styled semi detached and extended living accommodation All amenities are close at hand and viewing is highly recommended.

•Guide Price £130,000 PLUS



Adelaide Street **Brierley Hill**



Situated within a short distance of Brierley Hill centre, this traditionally styled Victorian mid terraced property is in need of full refurbishment and a bit of tlc. An ideal opportunity for investor/builder the property offers tremendous scope for

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

Winchester Drive **Birmingham**





M6 and M42 which offers fantastic transport links. The property

•Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

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Kathy Marrion - Partner



- End town house
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 PVCu double glazed
 Dining kitchen, lounge
 3 bedrooms

- 3 bedrooms shower room/WC
- Gardens and parking
 NO ONWARD CHAIN
 £130,000



- End town house
 Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Front reception room
 rear dining room, kitchen
 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
 Parking
 Gardens

£120,000



- End town house
 Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Lounge, kitchen

- bathroom/WC Parking and Gardens £130,000



Great Wyrley

- Semi detached house
 Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Lounge, Kitchen
 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Gardens and driveway
 SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
 ?180 reference fee applies
 £625



- End town house
 Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Through lounge/diner, kitchen
 Bedrooms, bathroom and WC
 Mature Gardens
 NO ONWARD CHAIN
 In Need of Re-Furbishment



- Gas Heated
 PVCu Double Glazed

- Lounge
 Kitchen
 2 Bedrooms
 Bathroom

Bathroom
 No Onward Chain
 £74,950



- Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Lounge, kitchen, gym
 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC

• Must Be Viewed £350,000



Elmsdale Court

- Glazed and heated

- Bathroom/WC
- Parking
 Communal Gardens

Communal Garden
 No Onward Chain
 £60,000

 Gas Central meaning
 Double Glazing
 Lounge, Kitchen
 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC • Garden
• Parking Spaces
• No Onward Chain
£99,950

Gas Central Heating



- Extended Detached House

- P Control of Control o

Bathroom/WC
 Single Garage, Driveway
 Fore and Rear Gardens
 £285,000



- Semi-Detached House
- Double Glazing Lounge, Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Garage, Drivew

°£170,000



Kenilworth Crescent

- Ground Floor Maisonette PVCU Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating 2 Bedrooms
- Fore and Rear Gardens
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 P180 reference fee applies
 2495



Mattesley Court

- 40% Ownership
 Second floor apartment
 Residents lounge, restaurant
 Hair salon, shop, laundry room
- 2 bedrooms, wet room/WC
 Fitted kitchen, lounge

Ample parking and communal gardens £30,000



Norfolk Grove

- Well Maintained Park Home
- Being for the Over 55'S
- Electric Heating, Hallway Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area 2 Double Bedrooms, En-Suite

Top floor apartmen

Top floor apartment
Gas centrally heated
PVCu double glazed
Lounge, kitchen
2 bedrooms
bathroom/WC
Gassage

Garage communal gardens £124,000

Cloakroom, Conservator Six Bedrooms, Three En-suites
 Family Bathroom, Large Driveway

Rear Garaen
 No Onward Chain
 £450,000

Parking, Gardens £100,000



End terrace house
 Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Lounge
 conservatory, kitchen
 3 bedrooms
 bathroom/WC

Driveway parking and gardens £130,000

- Double glazed Electrically heated Lounge, dining room, kitchen 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Allocated parking NO ONWARD CHAIN communal gardens £104,950



- End Town House

 Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed
 Lounge, dining kitcher
 3 bedrooms
 bathroom/WC
 Parking, gardens
 workshop





ENTATE ACIEN

rightmove (a)

Lounge, dining room kitchen

Driveway and gardens £135,000

Harden Close Gas centrally heated PVCu double glazed

£110.000

Darlaston Road Walsall Gas centrally heated
 PVCu double glazed

Portsea Street

Iwo bedroom Semi-Detached Hous
 Gas Central Heating, Solar Panels
 PVCu Double Glazing
 Front Lounge, Dining Room,
 Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom/wc
 Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
 Driveway, Rear Garden

Driveway, Rear Garaen
 NO ONWARD CHAIN
 £115,000

Lounge/dining room, kitchen 2 bedrooms

• Workshop • parking, gardens £139,950

shower room/WC

Workshop



Hawbush Road

Extended Semi-Detached House



£255,000





Park Hall Close

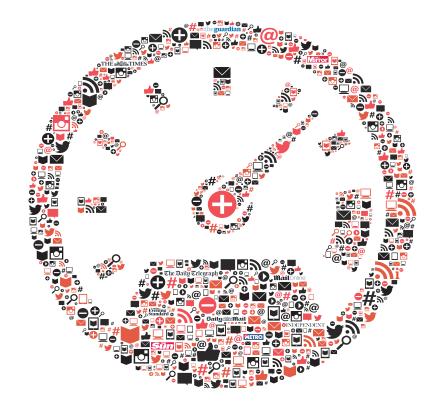


Avon Road



• Rear Garden

Kitchen



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(now retired from driving)
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18/0249 Mr Paul Broadgate FOR: REMOVAL OF CONDITION 7A OF 100229 WIF 740 INDUSTRIES TO ALLOW INSTALLATION OF VRS PRIOR TO THE COMMERCIAL UNIT ON THE GROUND FLOOR BEING FIRST OPENED TO VISITING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. AT: ST MATTHEWS VIEW, 12-14 HIGH STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1QW

18/0246_J Porter FOR: REMOVAL OF CONDITION 7 OF PERMISSION 17/1318 TO OMIT REQUIREMENT FOR PARKING SPACE FOR 3 MOUSE HILL. AT: LAND BETWEEN 6 & 14, FOUNDRY LANE, PELSALL

18/0319 Mr & Mrs Ali Mohammed FOR: GROUND FLOOR INTERNAL ALTERATIONS AND REAR EXTENSION TO SIDE GARDEN AREA (RESUBMISSION OF 16/0477) INCLUDING INCREASED HEIGHT OF SIDE WALL AT: 36, LYSWAYS STREET, WALSALL, WS1 3AQ

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Single Women

VALERIE, caring lady 70s GSOH hoping to meet a kind gent for outings, companionship, perhaps more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430557 €

SARAH black lady, works as a avise. 48yrs young, hoping to meet a younger man for some fun. Let me be your couger and dress me up in my uniform. Text Only. Box: 4166063

MY name is Sally, I'm a young 60yrs, attractive & blonde. I love going out to lunch, holidays, meals at home, the general things. Hoping to meet a nice gent 58+. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430555 🗒

MELANIE, attractive lady, 38yrs, hoping to meet a nice chap, any age, for chats, non complicated times. Must have great soh, looks unimportant. Text Only. Box: 4037147

ANNE Marie, 30yrs loving lady, loves life, socialising, everything really. Hoping to meet a respectful loving older gent. ACA Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430553

HELEN, sophisticated, cultured lady, 30 something seeks mature man for life's pleasures. Discreet with no strings. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 430171

HEATHER, shy sensitive brunette EATHER, sny sensitive brunette, Syrs, looking for an experienced der gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430487

GILLY, 39yrs, voluptuous sexy well groomed lady. Varied interests, loves mutual pampering. Looking to meet a man for mutual pleasures. Discretion assured & expected. Call me. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: me. Te 430249

PAT, 70 year old lady, dark blonde hair, 5ft4, lives in the West Midlands, likes reading, meals out and walking, WLTM a N/S gentleman for days out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430499

JULIE, 49yrs, recently divorced, own house car etc. Seeks discreet man for daytime meetings while the kids are at school. Week days only. I will reply to all texts. Text Only. Box: 4136824

SYLVIA, 44yrs, Curvy busty lady with cute face. Naughty and open minded. Call to hear more, it easier to chat. Or you can text me if that's easier. You can be any age, just ready to chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430563 🗒

TABITHA, Jamaican princess 42yrs, large curvy figure, fabulous sense of humour and very open minded to fun. Hoping to chat to anyone with GSOH. Looks/age/status unimportant. Text Only. Box: 4116607

JEAN, attractive lady young 60s looking to meet younger man for special times. You won't be disappointed if you call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430561 🗒

YAZ, Asian lady, 32yrs, very slim and pretty. Hoping to meet a strong minded, dominant, resourceful man. Mature please 45+ Text Only. Box:

LINDA, 69yrs, divorcee with own home, solvent. Loves life to the full. WLTM male for companionship, adult relationship. Call or txt me. Lets chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430559

SOPHIE, 46yrs, attractive professional lady with time on her hands Hoping to meet a nice gent of any age, text fun, flirt, possible meeting Text Only. Box: 4126579

Customer support

KIRSTEN 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded discreet decent male for fun friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430233 🗒

casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busty with a firm figure. You must be open mind 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633

blonde. Very active and outgoing, still enjoying life. Hoping to meet a kindly gent 60+, preferably black or Asian for socialising and life's pleasures. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430407 🗓

3011 Box: 409715

KAREN 41yrs, long legged blonde lady seeks no strings fun with chap of any age. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box: 430251

JENNY, 60s, bright blonde lady, looking for someone to share a happy, loving future with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430395

seeks man 30+ for daytime fun in her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 429849

classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable very sexy man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430429

430349

MERRY Widow, young 70 yrs, lots of love to give to the right man. I'm very young looking, still blonde. Call me, lets chat/text, then if we click we can meet up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430411 🗒

BEAUTIFUL Black lady 43yrs. Hoping to meet a mature man for no strings regular fun, preferably day-time. Bernadette, sexy black lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430409 🗒

JULIE, 41yrs, curvy white lady interested in meeting a Asian male 30+ for no strings fun. Hoping to hear from you soon. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430405 8

MARIELLE 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

yrs, busty, open minded with a zest for life seeks discreet male, age/looks unimportant. All calls/txts answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430485

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ANNA, 53vrs, attractive blonde ladv. with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for no strings discreet fun. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box: 429721

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KIRSTEN 36 attractive blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded discreet decent male for fun friend-ship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430233

DOREEN 42, blue eyes, red hair, petite build, varied interests looking for someone with a bit of get up and go who can make me laugh. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955
Box No: 430177

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851

LYN 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companion-ship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: Single Men

ALI from lbstock could you please get back in touch my queen of hugs and kisses. From your king of hugs and kisses. Missing you my love. Text only replies to Mailbox: 5432549

ADVENTUROUS 37 year old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography. Seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235 BROADMINDED male, 72, fit, active, GSOH, caring and loving, seeks N/S, open-minded lady, 66-71, for LTR. Genuine. ACA. Tel No:

0906 500 3955 Box No: 430241 MALE, 70, seeks female for mature

adult fun, can accommodate or travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430145 MALE, 64, married, seeking a N/S lady, 45+, for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430551 🗒

MALE, mid 50s, N/S, semi retired, MALE, mid 50s, N/S, semi retired, slim build, likes walking, holidays, occasional drinks, films, good chats, enjoys life, looking to meet a female, N/S, 50 plus, for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429637

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MALE 60, but acts younger, looking for a woman, 50 to 65, who likes having fun. I am single, slim, but tat-tooed all over!! Its up to you now ladies. Text only replies. Box no: 61522536

6152253 PETER, 54, lots of love to give, affectionate, likes cuddles on the sofa, movies, walks, meals out, WLTM similar minded lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430147

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TALL slim CD, male 55 yrs, loves dressing up, loves lingerie, wishing to meet like minded male for mee ups, fun and friendship, Text only replies. Mailbox: 6110283

BI curious submissive guy, wanting to meet an understanding older man for safe and discreet fun. Text only replies: 4722250 ELDERLY feminine gay male, retired, fit & active, cross dresser, WLTM similar gay male, 65 plus, for friendship & companionship. Text only replies: 4380218

MATURE male, WLTM similar mature single male for friendship mature, single male, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

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meet males for fun times in the Wes Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429563 GAY attractive feminine female would like to meet other gay feminine females for friendship possible relationship. Get in touch. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6062854

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BI male, submissive, seeks elderly male for discreet meets. Can accommodate. Text only to Mailbox: 6109368

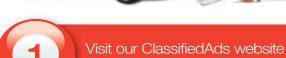
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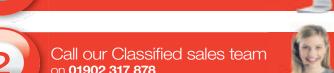
male, for discreet fun meetings. Text only replies to Box no: 4236310 🖺 GAY male, late 50s, from North Yorkshire/Welsh border, loving, car-ing, clean shaven, N/S, many inter-ests, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430465

MATURE male WLTM tall, hairy active male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430287

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Joseph with students at the Northern England Open Championships towards the end of last year

Joe Morrell, Mva Brown, Sam Rushworth and Alex Monte-Godfrey

Joseph Mongan with Mya Brown who bagged a bronze and silver

Karate ace still gets kick out of teachi

A KARATE ace has rekindled his love for the sport thanks to his stepson's curiosity.

Joseph Mongan is a former Funakoshi world champion. He's also an ex-World Ka-rate Federation European champion, a Commonwealth bronze medalist, and a third Dan black belt.

After admittedly falling out of love with a sport he has now rediscovered his passion after stepson Leo found his medals and his interest piqued.

Joseph had run a successful academy in Ipswich, but left it behind to move to Staffordshire with his wife. Following the gentle nudge from Leo, Joseph set up JGM Karate Academy in Norton Canes, near Cannock, and his current crop are beginning to replicate his success.

Three of them have picked up medals at national level, just two years since he opened the academy.

"Leo was searching through some stuff and just

happened to stumble across my medals and trophies in a box," said Joseph.

Impressive

"He asked me if I would teach him, and that's where it all started, really. I had an academy back

where it an started, reany. I had an academy oak in Ipswich which me and my brother ran, and we had a lot of success there – some of our students won some very impressive medals."

The JGM Karate Academy now boasts more than 100 members – the oldest a grandmother in her 70s – with training at Jerome Primary School, Norton Canes Community Centre and Burthwood.

her 70s – with training at Jerome Primary School, Norton Canes Community Centre and Burntwood Leisure Centre. The club's first black bet vies to become a Dan in April and other club members are on their way to claiming belts.

Joseph accepts members from all age groups, backgrounds and abilities, and they have recently competed at the Kyu Grade English National Championships – picking up four medals.

Joe Morell, aged 16, the club captain, won bronze in the Kata. Sam Rushworth, 14, also picked up a bronze in Kata at the 14-15 age group, and Mya Brown, 11, bagged both a bronze in the Kata and a silver in the Kumite, making her a double national medalist. "Mya is looking at attending the British

SPORTING FEATURE

By Adam Washbrook

"Some come because they perhaps struggle to manage their anger, and the sport helps teach them discipline. We really have helped people in all ways, and it's very rewarding."

Championships in May, and we're working very closely with her," said Joseph.

"To be able to compete in both styles at her age is a fantastic achievement.

"There's international championships later in

"There's international championships later in the year, in Poland and Venice. There's a chance we could have members competing in those too." There has also been success at the USA Open, Central England Championships, The Yorkshire Open and the KAA National Championships. "We have very high hopes for them and their futures," added Joseph.

But while there is success on the mat, Joseph admits money is sometimes a cause for concern admits money is sometimes a cause for concern.

admits money is sometimes a cause for concern.

admits money is sometimes a cause for concern, especially since Karate England cut the funding it used to provide.

"The students deserve recognition, and the sport needs it," he said. "We're actively looking for sponsorships because equipment and travel to tournaments and such doesn't come free.

"Without the recognition and the Press for these events, people don't know we need the sponsorship and it can be difficult at times. At the moment, parents fund the majority of event parmoment, parents fund the majority of event par-ticipation, and we do what we can to help. "For the English Nationals, we put on a raffle

at the Christmas party. People were very kind and

we made £100 for the students, which we contributed towards the competitors' fees, meaning they paid around £15 per event."

A 100 Kata challenge last week has so far raised around £350 which will help towards tournament entry and travel. More than 20 club members took part in the challenge to do 100 Katas.

Joseph himself has also been sent back to school to learn a new style for his students. "I regraded Shotokan to help some of my students. It was a certainly a challenge!" he said.

"It was a lot of hard work and a lot of late nights, but I got there. It's very interesting the difference

"It was a lot of hard work and a lot of late inghts, but I got there. It's very interesting the difference in fitness and strength conditioning required, but it sparks my enjoyment to be learning something new, and to develop and push myself."

Though his students' medals are at the forefront of his success, the 33-year-old says there are many more rewarding factors to teaching. It's executivity he care host taken him by unifor I

something he says has taken him by surprise. I was telling my wife, it's almost unbelievable the variety of reasons that we have people come to the academy," he added.

Discipline

"We've had people coming looking to learn basic self-defence, some coming to improve their fitness. You kind of expect those, but then on the other side of the spectrum we've had people come who are low on confidence and who use it help them

are low on confidence and who use it help them grow.

"Some come because they perhaps struggle to manage their anger, and the sport helps teach them discipline. We really have helped people in all ways, and it's very rewarding."

With karate now an official sport for the 2020 Olympics, Joseph hopes the academy can grow in line with the sport.

"We're working with academy associates at the moment and we just want to keep growing," he said. "We're looking to start a karate league soon and invite other clubs in the area so that we can raise the competition standard.

"There's the British Championships in May and we've got high hopes. I'm just looking forward to seeing how things go."

To get involved with the academy, contact them via their Facebook page – JGM Karate Academy.

International game to honour legend Cyrille

to football legend Cyrille Regis. Kick off on Saturday is 5.15pm. The friendly contest has been dubbed the Cyrille Regis International.

Ahead of the game, wreaths will be laid by the legendary forward's for-

Ahead of the game, wreaths will be laid by the legendary forward's former clubs Albion, Wolves, Villa and Coventry – as well as England – and a minute's applause will be held.

Regis, who won five senior international caps, and also scored three goals in six appearances for the under-21s, died in January aged 59.

Current under-21s boss Aidy Boothroyd and Regis's former Albion teammate Brendon Batson both hailed the decision to honour the striker.

Boothroyd said: "He was a fantastic footballer and he broke the ground for a lot of other black players to come through and play in the English leagues"

Batson added: "I'm delighted this game has been named in honour of Cyrille. He was a great footballer, but an even greater guy."

Opening night of darts academy hits bullseye

THE opening night of the West Midlands Darts Academy certainly hit the

THE opening night of the West Midlands Darts Academy certainly hit the bullseye. Allen's Sports Bar in Tipton was the venue for the venture that aims to get youngsters aged between six and 17 interested in the game. Organiser and coach Russell Dingley said 25 young dart aces checked in for the opening night. He said: "I expected six or seven kids, so it was a fantastic turnout. The darting community around here is massive so we were really happy with the opening."

Alfie Jacques, who won the JDC tour in 2017 aged just 14, turned out to support the compine of the aced with the second of the computer of the second.

support the opening of the academy. He said: "It was fantastic to see such a great turnout, because it shows how many people are interested in darts. "It' great for players like me because I know that I've got competition

and I've got to keep up and play against players like this because they are going to come on just as well as I have in the future."

For more details about the academy, search West Midlands Junior Darts Academy on Facebook.

Extra seats as fans flock to Edgbaston

es this year. Warwickshire announced they are to install a temporary stand to increase the ground's 24,550 capacity by 850 seats as England face Australia in an international T20 match on June 27, for the First Test against India from August 1 and for the domestic T20 Blast finals day on Septem-

ber 15.

A temporary extra tier of seating will be placed above the Stanley Barnes Stand. Gareth Roberts, commercial director at Warwickshire CCC, said: "This will be the third time in the last four years that we have brought in a temporary stand as a result of the popularity of the fixtures we are hosting. "The Vitality IT20 against Australia is now 75 per cent sold out, while year-on-year ticket sales for Vitality Blast Finals Day are 170 per cent up

"We've also seen huge demand for day three of the Test match against India, which will be a very special occasion as England's 1,000th Test."



Students belt up as karate coach rekindles passion

Page 39



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It's all-white for Darlaston in close fight

St Martins FC 1 Darlaston T'n (1874) 2 SUPPORTED by a number of brave travelling Darlaston Town supporters the game could not have started better for the visitors. Leon Taylor netting his third goal in two games just four minutes into the game. The goal came from a diagonal ball from left back Ryan Jones who from just inside his own half beat the static St Martin's defence allowing

the static St Martin's defence allowing Taylor to latch onto the ball and score past home keeper George Austin.

In an evenly contested game Darlaston responded superbly and doubled their lead in the 27th minute. The hard-working Leon Taylor held up the ball on the edge of the St. Martin's penalty area, laying off to the advancing Danny Mayne whose shot was saved by keeper Austin. The ball rebounded into the path of Taylor whose right foot strike found the right-hand side of the net.

Darlaston went into the half-time break 2-0 to the good and could not have asked for a better first half with the

break 2-0 to the good and could not have asked for a better first half with the weather deteriorating.

St Martins were gifted a lifeline in 57th minutes a poor clearance from a corner fell to Shaun Melusi whose shot was blocked eventually falling to Jamie Hands whose left foot shot beyond keeper Morris found the net to give the home side hope for the remainder of the game.

game.

Both teams and officials were battling the blizzard like conditions with a wind-chill of -9 degrees. The snow showers were getting heavier and longer, the pitch was now covered in snow. The weather did not deter either side, as they continued to both play their brand of football which was easy on the eve and of football which was easy on the eye and a credit to both teams

Bloxwich stick to it with icy hockey blast

Nottingham Players 1 Bloxwich 4 IN an eventful and sub-zero game, Blox-

wich won 4-1 away from home in ex-traordinary circumstances.

Bloxwich started off the strongest

team and took the early lead through a deflected Alex Hill touch. Bloxwich then doubled their lead through Jake Perkins who tapped in a Liam Brazier cross.

It was at this point the snow started to fall horizontally.

With the pitch now covered in white, both Mark Azram in goal and the Nottingham striker sow red

both Mark Azram in goal and the Not-tingham striker saw red.

Up stepped Ryan Mitford in goal who donned the over-sized goalkeeping kit.
Bloxwich managed to stay strong in defence as Ryan barely had a touch of the ball in the first half. Bloxwich were solid as they took a three goal lead into half time through a Rich Parker goal.

With players faces half frozen and fin-gers numb, Bloxwich saw out the second half with Rich Parker getting his second through a flick and Ryan Mitford letting

through a flick and Rvan Mitford letting in a goal late on in the game

Champ Denny returns as local hero

THE reigning Midlands middleweight champion will return to action when professional boxing returns with a six-fight card to the Venue in Dudley next month. Fight night has been scheduled for Saturday April 7.

Title-holder Tyler Denny, Kane Baker, Les Byfield, Ryan 'Stewart' Davies, Danny Ball and Humza Ali will occupy the home corner after the first bell. Denny laces on the gloves for the first time since his title glory on September 30, outpointing Tom Stokes for the vacant strap.

Denny has now set his sights on the English crown, currently held by Elliott Matthews, but

will first keep busy in a six-round contest.
Brummie Baker, from Bartley Green, has been hitting the road since his last fight in the West Midlands at the Venue, where he's racked up three of his five victories as a pro.

Baker, 27, has boxed at the famed York Hall in London twice and at the SSE Hydro in Belfast, Northern Ireland, against the likes of Conor Benn, Gary Cully and Sanieev Sahota.

with one TKO to his name. Kingswinford's Ball has a couple of first round TKOs to his credit, just four outings into his professional journey. Durable campaigners MJ Hall and Chris Jen-

kinson have gone the distance with the 21-year old, but Martin Karbrel and Paul Cummings were

both wiped out early.

Walsall's Ali has moved up to featherweight after debuting at super bantamweight but, at nearly 6ft, should still stand as an imposing fig-

Give Keates time to shine as new boss says Marsh



Hero's return - Dean Keates at Banks's

CLUB legend Chris Marsh has welcomed the appointment of Dean Keates as Walsall boss – but has urged fans to remain patient with their new manager.

Keate's was officially confirmed as the new Saddlers chief on Friday after the club agreed a compensation package with Wrexham. He has signed a three-and-a-half year deal. The 39-year-old, who is from Beechdale, made more than 200 playing appearances for Walsall and won three promotions in his two separate stints with the club.

Now manager, his first task is to keep Walsall in League One this season.

But Marsh believes Keates will quickly get the wins Walsall need before he then starts to plot long-term success. Keates was officially confirmed as the

starts to plot long-term success.
"The defence he built at Wrexham was

so strong and he is going to want to do
the same at Walsall. But that takes time
so the fans are going to have to be patient. I honestly believe though this is a great appointment."

Keates admitted he found the lure of

returning 'home' too strong. "I'm de-lighted to come back," he said. "I'm from the area. I was on the terraces at Fellows Park and then at the Banks's."

● Former Saddlers winger George Meek has died aged 84. The Scotsman played 44 games on loan from Leeds from 1953-55 and 128 more times on re-turning to Fellows Park from 1961-65.

NEWSPAPER SUPPORT RECYCLING

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SNOW JOKE AS WALSALL SL

THE first 20 minutes of this Midlands League encounter at Delves Road, was played in blizzard conditions.

The hosts had to work hard, as a result, to restrict their opponents to just a 6 - 3 lead at the interval.

Tom Hardy kicked two penalties for the visitors during the final quarter of the half. While Roger Weston put over an excellent 30m kick despite facing a gale force wind with just two minutes remaining in the half.

The Walsall players and coaches would have been satisfied with just a three point deficit at half time. Conditions, however, improved for the rest of the game. In the second half, a series of attacks eventually saw the visitors being penalised for an offside infringement. Once again Weston was on target with his 20m kick. Unfortunately, the hosts failed to secure good field positions and opportunities were restricted during the next 15 minutes. Eventually, Spartans were penalised for yet another offside violation. Hennessey placed a well struck kick towards the corner flag.

Lockett gained the lineout possession and the home pack made several drives before releasing the ball. The home backs ran well, but the quick

the ball. The home backs ran well, but the quick ball from the breakdown was stopped illegally and Weston had no problems with the 20m kick. This gave the hosts a one point lead with 15 minutes left. A long period of pressure followed after the visitors were awarded a penalty and the Walsall forwards defended well, but the referee decided that prop forward Simon Weaver was in an illegal position and was shown a vellow and

an illegal position and was shown a yellow card.

A man down, Walsall repelled several near efforts, until No8 Mike Foulds got himself over the line. Hardy then put over the difficult conversion which meant the hosts needed a try to win with four minutes left to play. During this period, it was the visitors that had to do all the defending, with no advantage given to Walsall after Spartan indiscretions, and the whistle was blown.

Club in the swim for charity



Megan Butler in action during the swimathon, totting up over three miles

BROADWAY Swimming Club held a sponsored swim on at Barr Beacon Leisure Centre, in aid of Sports Relief.

The sponsored swim was open to all swim-

The sponsored swill was open to a swillinger of all ages. Some of the younger children did amazingly well and swam a mile for the very first time. Our outstanding achievers at the event were: Elodie Rollins, swimming 2.33 miles; Mia Perfit, swimming 2.61 miles; Millie

Harmon, swimming 2.80 miles; Megan Butler,

Harmon, swimming 2.80 miles; Megan Butler, swimming 3.03 miles
The girls swam fantastically well, completing these distances in 90 minutes.
Well done to all of our children, raising money for such a worthy course.
Anyone wishing to join Broadway Swimming Club, should contact head coach Alan Bagnall

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Coaches available for private hire Call for details

Sunday 15th April to Saturday 21st April The Royal Norfolk Hotel, Bognor Regis (7 Days) £279.00 per person

Monday 18th June to Saturday 23rd June Shanklin Beach Hotel, Isle of Wight Single Supplement £5.00 per night (6 days) £285.00 per person

Monday 13th August to Friday 17th August
The Smith Court Hotel, Margate
Single Supplement £5.00 per night
(5 days) £270.00 per person

Monday 17th September to Friday 21st September **St Ives Hotel, Lytham, St Annes** (5 days) £255.00 per person

Sunday 14th October to Friday 19th October The Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall Single Supplement £5.00 per night (6 days) £320.00 per person

Monday 26th November to Friday 30th November The Osborne Hotel, Ilfracombe (5 days) Turkey & Tinsel £230.00 per person

Sunday 9th December to Friday 14th December The Tower House Hotel, Bournemouth (6 Days) Turkey & Tinsel £260.00 per person

FORTH COMING DAY TRIPS

Thursday 29th March Richmond Poppy Factory with lunch £20 Tuesday 24th April Bristol £16

Sunday 6th May Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza £16 Tuesday 5th June Morton in the Marsh Market &

Bourton on the Water £16

Friday 29th June Worcester & Webbs of Wychbold £16 Tuesday 3rd July Llangollen £16

Wednesday 11th July Windsor £16 Thursday 26th July Scenic tour around Yorkshire Dales £16